

# Maclean's

Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

July 31, 2000 [www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca) \$4.50

  
**TALL SHIPS**  
Memories Under Sail

**THE RT SCANDAL**  
Who Can You Trust?

Marriage  
2000

## A World Of Difference

New Style Weddings

Confronting the  
Seven-Year Itch

*James Emslie and  
Sharon Bacchus-Emslie*

\$4.50



31

My Local Events

June 23- 25  
• Canadian Anorexia  
National Convention

▲

GET OUT OF  
TOWN FAST.

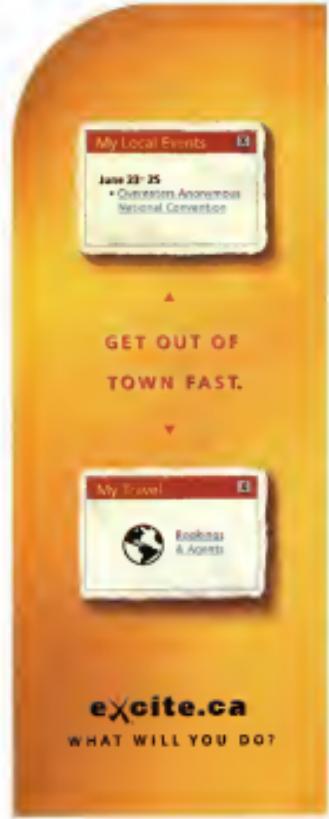
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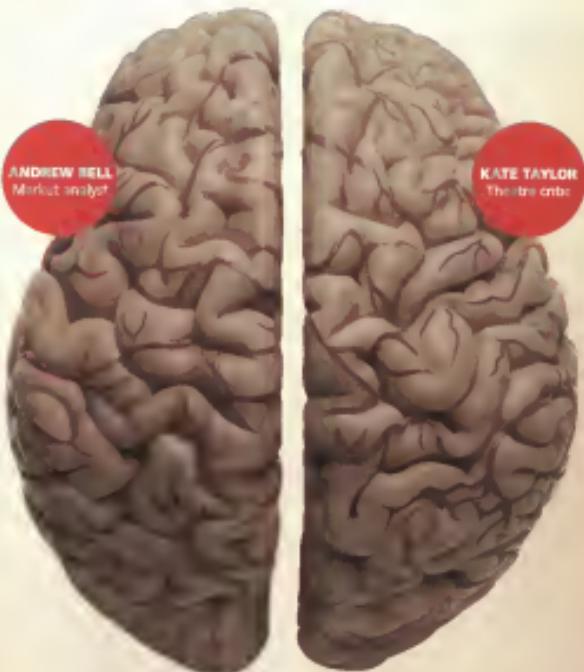
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Some of our writers have slightly different views. What unites them is a relentless ambition to deliver great writing. After all, a *Globe and Mail* reader would settle for nothing else.

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

## This Week

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**Maclean's**  
Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine  
July 11, 2008 Vol. 111 No. 29

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## Cover

## 36 A world of difference

More than 172,000 Canadian couples will marry this year. Many, including Jennifer Craft and Ross Kaedel, are finding unusual ways to tie the knot. Some choose exotic locales; others incorporate their diverse cultural heritages into the big day. And couples *Maclean's* profiled in 1995 explain how they dealt with the seven-year itch.



## Features



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The tall ships come to Halifax as the city celebrates a bygone era when canvas still ruled and Nova Scotia was a shipbuilding power.

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Helen and Joseph Kolomjichuk are among an estimated 50,000 Canadians expecting compensation for being forced labourers for the Third Reich.



## 28 Who can you trust?

Several traders and managers at the Royal Bank's pension arm were disciplined by securities regulators for stock manipulation, but critics said steeper penalties were called for.

# Editor

## The gem and a dirty little war

**Weddings are big** this season, as many couples try to capture the magic of getting married in the year 2000 (page 36). And while consumers are changing with the times, diamonds are still the big story indeed, the glittering gem that the song describes as "a girl's best friend" has been at the heart of a dirty little war in West Africa. While women slip diamonds on their fingers, guerrillas have been hacking arms off the people of Sierra Leone in an attempt to control the血 trade in the gem. Finally, last week the power brokers who control the global trade out of Antwerp, Belgium, moved to shut down the smugglers (page 24). The development was a major victory for the United Nations, the United States and many Canadians who have lobbied to reform the trade.

The targets were the shells who capture Sierra Leone's vast diamond deposits and, in return, for cash to buy guns and ammunition, smuggled gemstones to traders who turned a blind eye. Brown



*Diamonds forever?*

1991 and 1999, the war claimed more than 75,000 lives and displaced half of the country's 4.5 million people, according to an authoritative report, *The Heart of the Matter*, by a Canadian team led by Ottawa researcher Ian Seidle (newspaperreviewofnewsworthy.com). And, it concluded, there was no way that De Beers, the giant that rules the industry, did not know it was trading in smuggled diamonds.

Last week, De Beers became the central player in the adoption of new procedures designed to track diamonds from mine to jeweller state. Antwerp's High Diamond Council evidently heeded a warning from Canada's UN Ambassador Robert Fowler, who argued that consumers could turn away from so-called blood diamonds the way they have from fast harvested soy beans and endangered animals. "Diamonds will not be forever," Fowler said in Antwerp, "unless you are able to demonstrate to governments and, above all, to consumers worldwide, that you prod-

uce in no way contributes to misery and death in Africa."

The new regulations actually will help De Beers, which plans to become the seller of fine cuts of legit gems. Nicky Oppenheimer, executive chairman of De Beers, recently told London's *Daily Telegraph*: "Our ambition is to match the growth of other luxury goods." The controls also should help the owners of the Eluan territory in the Northwest Territories, which is now an important presence in the diamond industry. Last year, Diavik Minerals Ltd., which owns 29 per cent of Eluan, sold 2.2 million carats at an average price of \$168.05 (U.S.) per carat, which is at the high end of world prices.

The moral of this story is that being a good global citizen is good for business, businesses and governments can be positive agents for change, and people have the ultimate power to reform even the oldest institutions.

*Robert Fowler*

robert@un.ca or to comment on from the Editor

## Newsroom Notes

### Love and marriage

**It was a hectic time** for Associate Editor Susan McClelland. Not only did she write the main story in this week's cover package on weddings, she also produced the lead story in the Canada and the World section on Canadians who were slave- or forced-laborers under the Nazis and will benefit from a \$7.3-billion compensation fund set



*McClelland busy*

up by the German parliament.

Reporting the weddings cover, McClelland discovered that the traditional, big white wedding, which for decades captivated young women and bankrupted dads, just isn't the norm anymore. "Anything goes these days," she says. She was struck by a Calgary couple, "who re-

MARK J. CHIPMAN

DEALER OF EXCELLENCE  
AWARD WINNER

## MANITOBA



Mark J. Chipman  
President  
Birchwood Pontiac Buick GMC  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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'Here's to Harry'

**As a child, my fantasy books were** Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*, Maurice Ravel's *Leau*, *Two-Two under the Hooded King*, and, of course, the *Narnia* books, which I devoured much like the fan of J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter did now. "Harry Potter, Inc." (Cover, July 17) Harry is his critics' campionship; this new book is longer and maybe prettier, but *Twelve-Handed Puss* was no afternoon snack, and look at the joy to the imagination these classics have brought children of all generations. As for complaints that the price of this large Harry book is too

high, I'd rather see that sort of money spent on reading, any day. Better than writing it on finger-flicking a hand-new 500 Nintendo game that leaves nothing to the imagination and inspires no one. Here's to Harry Potter for enchanting a whole new generation of readers.

**Debra Kostas, Narragansett, R.I.**

**Harry Potter** mania is also sweeping the non-English-speaking world, at least the German one. Every major newspaper and newsmagazine ran stories on the July 1 travelling of the latest Potter adventure, and the first three books have been occupying the top three spots on the nonfiction best-seller lists for ages. Some kids, unable to wait for the Oct. 14 release of the German version, were also queuing up to buy the English version.

**Janet Vogel, Hamburg, Germany**

**Canada Post** did not deserve your recognition as an overachiever. My Harry Potter book arrived on Monday with a sticker on saying "Canada Post delivery on Saturday," but those words had been conveniently blacked out. Black magic, maybe.

**Angela Dawson, Vancouver, B.C.**

## Paths to faith

**When it seems** that many parents are becoming less involved in attempting to provide moral instruction to their children, I am heartened by Michael Lightstone's logical approach ("Family, yes, religion, no," Over to You, July 17). Morals, however, are not the complete answer in themselves. Living a moral life will not provide children with the pathway to salvation or give them an answer to the many philosophical questions of life. To have well-rounded, healthy children, parents need to satisfy their physical, psychological and spiritual needs. With the rich spiritual traditions of Judaism and Christianity available, it seems a shame that he deprives his children of these teachings. It may be too late to leave this for their adult hood, however.

**Debra Shingharpur, Edmonton**

## Doctors of courage

**I commend** Michael and Dr. James Paiger for the powerful and moving article on Médecins sans frontières ("A meditation on evil," World Essay, July 1). The may illustrates vividly both the courage of these doctors, as well as the harrowing circumstances under which they perform their heroic work. Canadian physicians have always made up a significant number of the MSF volunteers. As Dr. Paiger knows from his experience with his own daughter, Millie, these Canadian doctors embody our country's highest ideals and bring them to life. It is essential that Canadians be aware of these significant contributions by Canadian physicians. I congratulate Dr. Paiger for his sensitive essay and *Maclean's* for giving the matter such prominence.

**Alton Stark, Minister of Health, Ottawa**

Thanks to Michael Lightstone for his intelligent comments on raising a Christian-Jewish family. My husband and I believe that we can have a moral household without renouncing religion down our children's throats. We are constantly confronted by those who believe that their belief is the only just and moral one. Thanks for giving a credible voice to those of us who believe that whether or not our children choose a religious path, we will still give them the freedom and support to lead an exemplary life.

**Debra Shingharpur, Edmonton**

**Faith and belief** in God do not suddenly arrive one day when one decides, "Oh, I like Christianity, or I like Judaism." Faith comes from practice and exploring one's own spirituality throughout life. There are not two paths. One cannot be taught to have faith, as well as not to have faith. If you are taught to believe—and you find that you are unable to do so—then you have a choice. If you have been taught nothing—then you have no choice. Lightstone and his wife each were able to make a choice between Judaism, Christianity or no religion at

all. By not providing a "path" for these children to follow, they do not have that opportunity.

**Kira Myatt, Mississauga, Ont.**

## Stock-taking

**I wish** Stockwell Day success as the new leader of the Alliance party ("On to Ottawa," Canada, July 17). Canadians need a politician who is not afraid to stand up to the collective forces of social banality, atheism and political correctness that have controlled Canadian political and social landscape for the past 25 years. Canadians and the media need not fear men and women of faith, integrity and strong moral principles who stand for public office.

**Doug Barr, Victoria**

As it stands right now, the prospect of choosing between John Clark, who is still lacking in vision, Joe Clark, whose misguided leadership is bringing the Progressive Conservatives to extinction, and now Stockwell Day, with

the Canadian Alliance's aggressive social policies, is rather disheartening to say the least. Finance Minister Paul Martin leads the Liberals in the next election. I will vote Liberal, but right now, if our ballot gave us the option of "none of the above," I would choose that.

**Mark Atwell, London, Ont.**

**The defensive** lens now focusing on our Canadiana have good reason to fear "Stock" may stay instead. Any

one interested in women's reproductive rights, for example, should be scared by his demonstrated belief that the public health system should not cover abortion. The financially challenged should be downing-spirited by his economic policy proposals, not the least of which is the scheduled 17-per-cent flat tax. If that weren't enough, his proposal that public opinion in the form of referendums should be the arbiter of some basic human rights should scare the pants off anyone who recognises that such rights are constitutionally entrenched precisely to prevent the kinds of injustices that result from

**In "Stock phrases"** you quote Stockwell Day saying: "Homosexuality is a choice." There are two aspects to homosexuality: orientation and action/behaviour. Homosexuality as an orientation is not a choice (any more than it is for heterosexuality), but homosexuality as an action/behaviour is a choice (as it is for heterosexuality); either to act on it or remain celibate.

**George Miller, Vancouver**

**In your editorial** about the nation to the Stockwell Day case ("How scary?" (July 10), you say you do not

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111 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5J 1E6  
Fax: (416) 367-4727  
E-mail: [letters@postmedia.com](mailto:letters@postmedia.com)

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Long Form, Ottawa

choose sides ("The people always decide," From the Editor, July 17), but what you choose to print and not print is indeed choosing sides. You say "In the end, the people will decide." But people's decisions, in a gear center, will be based on what they read and see in the media, including your magazine. So how can you say you do not have any influence on these decisions?

Robert G. Fawcett, Oakville Mills, Ont.

You are right, the discourse will decide, but responsible, objective journalism demands a different approach than this sort of decision by editor. For more scary to me, and I believe to most moral, upright and compassionate Canadians, is the intransigence in our government and media of an "anything goes" attitude in moral and ethical standards, and the tendency to treat anyone who expresses other views as "silly" or somehow less intelligent or knowledgeable.

Tamara Hynd, Calgary

## Outlines of history

While your special report "It's Viking-warrior" [July 10] was enjoyable, you mislead me as to saying that L'Anse aux Meadows was part of Vinland. L'Anse aux Meadows was indeed part of Vinland, and a very significant part.

It stood at the entrance to Vinland, and was the base for explorations further south. Vinland itself was a large region, probably encompassing all the coast around the Gulf of St. Lawrence. You also say that "the stone and wooden buildings" have "narratively remained by Parks Canada." They are, in fact, replicas rather than reconstructions and were erected at some distance from the Norse ruins. Restorers would have interfered with the remains of the original buildings, and Parks Canada took great care to see that what little remained of the buildings' footprints stayed protected for the future. It is perhaps a minor detail, but your readers should know that when they see the low outlines in the ground, they are

looking at the real remains of the Norse venture and exploration in the New World.

Bingtao Wallace, Halifax

## Expatriate benefits

I read with considerable annoyance the letter regarding high Canadian taxes by yet another of our dazed fauna ("Down the drain fauna," July 1). Canadian tax benefits are provided by the heavy tax burden shouldered by the Canadian taxpayer, and are not meant for freeloading residents of convenience. Surely it is time for our government to consider a more equitable policy for dealing with "Canadian" who ask their families elsewhere during that high earning years and then scuttle back when it's convenient. Maybe all of our benefits, or the tax an individual receives there, should be based on the percentage of Canadian taxes paid versus the total tax paid of a normal work life. Ten years of enjoying low tax contributions elsewhere might therefore cost a returnee recipient a 25-per-cent penalty on all Canadian benefits.

W. S. Wilton, Whistler

## Genius awards

Thank you for acknowledging that the poet Anne Carson was awarded a MacArthur Foundation "genius" award [Panama, June 26]. However, in listing the other Canadian recipients of this very prestigious prize, you left out another poet: Daryl Hine of Moosejaw, James Pollock, Houston.

De George Archibald, director of the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Wis., also won a MacArthur Foundation grant award. Although he has not and works in the United States, he was born and made in Nova Scotia, a graduate of Dalhousie University in Halifax and is still very much a Canadian citizen.

Anne Tokaruk, Carson Place, Ont.

# Overture

@macleans.ca

Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith  
work *Shonda Deziel*

## Over and Under Achievers

### Granny, get out!

One dog to go (no reward!)!  
Pete Anderson, no money honey!  
And under, under everywhere, but . . .

◆ **Air Canada:** Oh it's *Sex in the City*!  
It's revealed that airline used *garage*,  
all off flight because she work at  
near the bathroom.

◆ **Air Canada (Part 2):** Oh, and their  
planes may go on *series*. Theme song:  
"Leave on a jet plane, don't know  
where I'll be back again . . ."



Pete: a funny way of saying shorts

◆ **Heineken:** New I-am-Canadian beer ad  
has name by American band the  
Ravers, *Guilty the Tragically Hip*,  
Blue Rodeo, Sloan, and co. were busy.

◆ **Ontario's environment ministry:**  
There list of over 100 places with  
foul-smelling drinking water only becomes  
public through media leak. Maybe  
they'd be more forthcoming if public  
minister minister should also be *interior*.

◆ **The Rice Ball Dog:**  
His campaign is now  
after company execs re-in-  
duce an underhanded  
aside-bite not best ad  
for product.



## Overbites

"I don't know why they  
asked me to do this  
I don't clean. You know  
advertising agencies."

—Comedic actress and recent  
Oscar of Canadian respect  
Mary Walsh discusses her de-  
cision to appear at a promotion  
for a Procter & Gamble  
floor-cleaning product.

"I got this phone call at  
home. The voice  
said, 'Hi, Nia.  
This is Tom Hanks.  
I understand you've  
written a screenplay . . .  
I want to buy it . . .'"

—Wine-geek-born performer  
**Ma Vandale** tells how she  
learned of her plan to  
make a movie based on her  
play *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*

## Sex and the Canadian way

*The HBO show Sex and the City* a spin-  
off from *New York, but the tales of  
cervical coupling, shopping and trips to the  
Hamptons, have also featured a few  
Canadian touches—pardonably enough to  
change the show's name to the more Canadian  
name *Sex in the Snow* (except, of course,  
that the tale was already used by *Callas*—  
Michael Adams in a best-selling book).*



◆ On August 18,  
Canadian pop star  
Avril Lavigne  
will make a great  
appearance, sharing a  
passionate kiss with  
her costar Carrie  
played by Sarah Jessica  
Parker.

*Cynthia Nixon* (left),  
*Drew*, *Parker* and  
*Carroll* *passionate*

◆ **Samantha,** the ruthless and sexy TV  
sex, is played by Kim Cattrall, who was  
born in England but grew up on Vancouver Island. She accompanied Pierre  
Trudeau to the 1981 G7 in Quebec.

◆ **Hot Canadian director Alfonso Cuarón** (*Jewel*) *Sex* stopped behind the lens for  
one episode last season.

◆ **Sar Parker** played Nell  
Ferranti, the love of Royal  
Canadian Mounted  
Police constable *Det. Const.*  
*De-Right*, in last  
year's film of the  
same name.

◆ **Actress Kristin Davis**,  
who plays Charlotte, the  
youngest, most-travelled  
with her estranged Fisher  
when she was on a promotional  
tour through Canada  
in 1995.

*Shonda Deziel*

## Over There

### A party, but no one came

Back in the 1990s, Germany conceived plans to welcome the new century by staging a spectacular world's fair highlighting technology and the environment. Canada was one of 170 countries to sign on, spending more than \$40 million developing a 7,500-square-metre pavilion—second in size only to the host country's. But as far, only three million people have visited the \$2.7-million facility in Hanover since it opened on June 1. With the fair closing in October, the goal of 40 million visitors looks unattainable, and pundits have dubbed it the even the "millennium flop."

Canadian officials had helped 30,000 people a day walk  
through their pavilion, but only half that have come  
so far. Even so, Catherine Sylvain, Canadian deputy  
commissioner general at the fair, remains upbeat. She says that  
Canada's pavilion has been named one of the top five—a  
distinction that apparently ensues European heads of state  
and VIPs will visit—and is attracting more people than  
almost any other display. Visitors walk right past with our  
900 television screens broadcasting images of a river as it



From Canada at the fair in Hanover, but where are the visitors?

flows through the seasons, and are surrounded by more than  
2,000 images. Sylvain says she's unsure why the fair isn't  
drawing more traffic. "I guess culturally Germans go off with  
their families into the country," she says. "I can't explain it."

TOM FERRELL

## News About Booze

### Not another tequila sunrise

A global shortage pushes prices way up

There is no joy in *Jimmy Buffet's* Margaritaville of song  
times: there is a global aquavit shortage. As of last week,  
Ontario liquor stores posted signs in their windows an-  
nouncing the disaster—as the same time they picked  
up prices by about \$12 a bottle. The popular *Scandinavian Gold*  
went from \$21.95 for a 750-ml bottle to \$34.95. Other  
provinces raised prices earlier that month—in British  
Columbia, *Scandinavian Gold* is \$37.75; in Saskatchewan,  
\$36.95; and in New Brunswick it is the same as Ontario.

The culprit was a harsh frost and a nasty fungal virus  
that attacked Mexico's blue agave plants from which  
rum is made. There's no telling when things will return to  
normal, since working with the agave is precarious at the  
best of times, as when between seven and 12 years to mature.

A spokesman from the Liquor Control Board of  
Ontario says Canadians can take comfort in the fact  
that Canada, along with the United States and Mexico, have  
been deemed priority areas in the extraction of the liquid  
gold during the drought. "While supplies will be scarce,"  
says Chris Leyton, "we will at least have some stuff."  
Those in other parts of the world won't be so fortunate.

S.D.

Over To You

Adam Grachnik



## Why I miss my teens

**This time last year**, I had just returned from a two-month "discover myself" trip to Europe and was packing my bags for my first year at the University of Ottawa. Fresh from my travels, I could proudly say I was Canadian, that was all that mattered. But a year later—packing the same bags again for school—my declaration is no longer enough. Now, to be accepted by friends, I must make clear that I do care, and that I care to do that and am going to do so...

Everything in my life has turned into a competition. A year ago, it was simple: "We would go to the bar in downtown Toronto and pay for parking (before a long argument as to who would drive), wait in line, drink, dance, talk about girls, television or sports, gather up the troops, get a keg and go home. Our entertainment was an ideology of porcine consumption but great, memorable times. We were 19 and lucky to be living in an upper-middle-class neighbourhood with no urban concerns—and we were happy.

At some point during my freshman year, things changed. Returning home from our semi-bye this past weekend, I noticed the parties was shockingly different. We didn't pay for parking, because nobody wanted to drive. We still drink, but not as much, because some of us had to be up early the next day. We didn't dance, because some had mean girlfriends, while others didn't care, or were too tired. We still got litigious, but some were concerned about the fat intake. My downtown night had morphed into something as foreign to me as Pakistan or poverty.

The inescapable change was our concreteness. We didn't gab about high school issues. Instead, we spent

the night talking about what each of us was doing or hoping to do. We were around the circle trying to outdo the other—one is working for a big beer company, another is in a law firm—and everyone assumed they were far from part-time work in a coffee shop.

Why is it necessary for 30-year-old kids to compete? Why is the familiar "How're you doing?" evolved into a trigger to get information as to how successful the other person is? Am we heading toward a world that demands achievements and go-go-goers, leaving little time for fun and games?

Perhaps this is the future, and maybe it's better than the hypes of the Star or pundits of the *Seventies*. All I know is that I now live in a world where everyone is busy proclaiming that they're the newest don-con rockstars, or heart-throbs, or travelling, or on their way to success in big business.

But who really cares about how much you earn, how well you're doing or where you've been? There's nothing wrong with healthy competition, but remember, we're 20 years old—we're supposed to be young and out-of-control. It's not against success and achievement, or travelling, or on their way to success in big business.

What happens if you don't have a clear goal? Has a year of university opened our eyes that much to the capitalist world we live in? C'mon, let's go out and have a little fun. Who's coming to the bar on Saturday? I'll dare—but prior, leave your cameras and cellphones at home. Besides, I've got a category-cut and free passes and... and... just kidding!

*Adam Grachnik, a learning lab at University of Ottawa, submissions may be sent to [adams@uottawa.ca](mailto:adams@uottawa.ca) or faxed to 613-746-7730. We cannot respond to all queries.*

## Overture

### PASSEAGES

**Guilt**: Gynecologist Dr. Richard Neist, 52, was found guilty of more than 30 charges, including clinical incompetence, professional negligence and extreme rudeness to women by Britain's General Medical Council. Fifteen years ago, the Berth-bora doctor—known as "Bloody Dr. Neist"—was blamed for practising medicine in Ontario after an Ottawa woman died under his care. An investigation then uncovered at least 40 other women in Ontario and British Columbia with complaints about his conduct and non-consultative procedures. He returned to Britain in 1985 and continued to practice there through Canadian authorities informed the British council of Neist's history.



**Obsoleted**: Basketball armchair Viaces Carter, 23, may pay \$1.5 million (U.S.) to Paris North America Inc. for breach of contract, says a Borsa arbitration. The Taiwan-Japan star signed a multimillion-dollar contract with the shoe company prior to entering the NBA in 1999. Carter stopped wearing the Vansporto shoe 18 months into the contract, arguing that it hurt his feet. Reappraised, he was also unhappy with Vansporto marketing. The arbitrator honored Carter from wearing any of Paris' competitors' shoes for three years.

**Died**: Samra, one-born aeronautical engineer Owen Maynard, 75, was a top manager of the Apollo moon landing. Maynard joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942. After the war, he worked for Avco Canada and then NASA. He is responsible for the design of the lunar module that Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin

landed on the moon on July 20, 1969. After retiring, he remained in Canada. He died in Waterloo, Ont., of heart complications.

**Flabbed**: Vicar Malacki, 55, co-host of CBC's *Off the Fence*, has filed a labour grievance accusing executive producer David Stander of harassment. Sources say shooting matches between Stander and Malacki began in June just prior to the departure of co-host Francine Pfeiffer—one of several recent defectors from the show. Malacki, a long-time print journalist, has won numerous awards, including three Moxie Awards for public service in reporting.

**Died**: Frank Miller, the folksy, plaid-clad Muskoka car dealer, was Ontario's answer for the awards in 1985. His term came to an abrupt end when the New Democratic and Liberal parties combined to throw the Tories out of office, ending 42 years of Conservative rule. Miller, 73, died of heart failure in Bracebridge, Ont.

**Died**: Republican Senator Paul Covelli of Georgia was a behind-the-scenes leader in the often-epidemic upper house. A friend of former U.S. president George Bush, Covelli served as the Senate's chief liaison to the presidential campaign of Bush's son, George W. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Atlanta at 61.

**Leaving**: CBC is not renewing the contract of John Shannon, 46, who has been executive producer of *Hockey Night in Canada* for the last five years. Executive director of CBC-TV sports Nancy Lass says the CBC wants to give someone else a shot at running the highly successful program. Shannon was popular with on-air hosts, but occasionally clashed with crew and CBC officials. "The ratings are fine," says Lass. "I just never satisfied with shooting call."

**Died**: The "Master of Masquerade," Harry Malabar, performed hundreds of stage performances, as well as thousands of parties over his 76 years in the costume business. When he turned 100 last November, he arrived in his party in an Elvis Presley costume. He died in Toronto of heart failure.

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# Down to the Sea

By John DeMont in Halifax

**As the tall ships arrive in Halifax, the city throws a celebration like no other**

**Don Wikleman**, a 20-year-old from Victoria, Que., seemed a little disinterested on the Halifax waterfront last week. Two months ago, after all, he had been in Bremerhaven with no purpose other than visiting a cousin. Then, one day in June, the *Royal Amstel*, a gorgeous, 41-metre-long German brig, pulled into the harbour after completing the Cadiz-Spanish-Bremen leg of the *The Tall Ships Race of the Century*. "It looked like a museum piece," he remembers thinking at the time. "I mean, what is the practical use of a square-rigger today?" To find out, he signed up as a deckhand. Six weeks later, Wikleman has a sun-darkened face and wood-harwooden

hands. What's more, the shapely new grader about the beauty of sail snapping in the wind and the importance of holding onto ancient sailing traditions. And he intended to be on board when the *Royal Amstel* departed for Amsterdam early this week, bound for the race finish line and then the ship's home port of Wolfsburg, Germany. "In a concert," he concludes.

It was hard not to be, as the first ships emerged like square-sailed phantoms from the early morning fog outside Halifax harbour last week. By the time the 79th ship made berth, a big sun burned in a cloudless sky and it seemed for one glorious moment like the great days of sail had returned

*The Pirates Creek* (right) racing across the water (right); racing an era when Nova Scotia was still a shipbuilding power and sailing vessels ruled the sea



to the Halifax waterfront. Even for this seafaring city, it was a sight the countless miles of ocean, the hundreds of masts pointing downward, the enormous decks—many as long as a football field—lashed up along the docks. The armada, from some 20 different countries and said to be the largest collection of sailing ships in Halifax harbour since the mid-19th century when Nova Scotia was still a shipbuilding power, dazzled the crowds who flocked to the waterfront to see the race's only Canadian port of call. And the docks and streets of Halifax, already bursting with summer life, thrashed with music, exuberant good times and the exotic voices of sailors from other countries lost in a foreign city.

Most of the celebs were there for nostalgia as much as a party. "It's like going back in time," said Eric Oberon, a native from Sudbury, Ont., as he described from a tour of the *Kwou Maru*, a 95-metre-long Japanese brigantine. To Judy Proulx, 40, a homemaker and mother of two from Moncton, N.B., the gear masted ship symbolic escape from the rigors of modern life. "Who," she asked, "leaves from time to time wanting to forget about the kids and the responsibilities and runs away to sea?" Sergey Timoshkin, chief officer aboard *Mir*, a 95-metre-long Russian vessel, can appreciate that antinomy. Now 41, he has been sailing for 23 years. Last week, in broken English, he enthusiastically talked about the joys of being under sail on the open ocean. "Spend just a day on a boat like this and you will remember it all your life," he said.

No wonder Ben Lodman, the captain of the *Royal Amstel*, arrived so energized to be in the company of many other sailors. In Germany, his homeland, the skills required to handle the towering vessels are almost extinct. "It is a case of taking the last ships of those who know and passing them on to the last people who want to know," he said. Last week, though, as a stiff bracing blow of the wind, he was happy to be with the others amid the great masts in Halifax harbour, listening to the sound of splashing water and crackling wood, evoking a time when sail still ruled. ■

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# Hands across the border

Canada and the United States are co-operating to stop the flow of illegal migrants to North American shores

By John Nicol

It is known as *la route de l'espérance*—the highway of hope. Each year, about 5,000 migrants make their way north along Interstate 87 from New York to the refugee claim at St-Bernard-de-Lacolle, on the Quebec border 65 km south of Montreal. Many of them arrive in New York with fraudulent passports, which they often hand back to the human smugglers who brought them to the city. Until this year, Ottawa had difficulty convincing the United States to do something about the illicit passage. But that may finally be about to change—in what some observers have heralded as a new era of cooperation between Canadian and U.S. immigration authorities.

Washington has long grappled with illegal migrants streaming south across the border from Canada. Those complaints reached a crescendo last December when alleged Algerian terrorists were caught crossing the United States at Port Angeles, Wash., and Brother Falls, Vt. But the United States also acknowledges the border is a two-way problem. And this fall, Michaelle has learned, U.S. and Canadian authorities will embark on the Lacolle Project, to investigate human smuggling through the United States and along *la route de l'espérance* into Canada. Investigators will gather intelligence on refugee claimants to verify their identities and the smuggling routes along which they



Soul-sick of political persecution in Pakistan

was persecuted for belonging to the wrong political party.

Centres say Washington and Ottawa are trying to establish "Former America"—keeping not only nuclear, war criminals and gangsters off North American shores but also refugees. But one Canadian embassy official in Washington who asked to remain anonymous says Ottawa's immigration policy is to welcome most immigrants who apply through proper channels in their home countries—a planned 30 per cent increase over the next five years—while clamping down on undesirable. The Lacolle Project, he says, exemplifies the "historic and unprecedented" cooperation between immigration authorities in the two countries.

It extends beyond Lacolle. Besides the ever-growing exchange of intelligence information, Canada and the United States are consulting on visas, and cooperating at foreign embassies to stop people smuggling from overseas. The eventual aim, the diplomat said, may be a more open U.S.-Canada border. But in order to accomplish that, he said, Michaelle, "you have to have the type of relationship that we're trying to build. You have to have those safeguards to make sure we are protecting each other's back."

It won't always be that. With the passage by Congress in 1996 of new measures to combat illegal immigration, it appears as though Washington had turned its back on Canada. Section 110 of the bill called for more stringent monitoring of visitors to and from the United States. But the fear of potential borderblocks at airports and border crossings became a catalyst for high-level diplomacy. One result was an amendment to the bill to ease passage be-

# Automotive Marketplace ONTARIO

## Self-Regulation Makes Ontario Auto Dealers the Most Accountable in the Country



Gerd Reiseneker



**T**here has been a significant increase in consumer confidence in registered new car dealers across Ontario, following the establishment by the industry of its self-management body, the Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council, known as OMVIC, in 1997.

Formulated as a response to a poor perception of auto dealers and a lack of government enforcement of existing regulations in the industry, OMVIC represents a significant achievement in the areas of consumer protection and industry accountability for Ontario

car dealers.

Gerd Reiseneker, general manager of Greentree Volkswagen, explains that because of OMVIC initiatives such as salesperson training and registration programs, a consumer protection fund, and an improvement in the way dealerships are monitored, Ontario dealers are experiencing a renewed public confidence in their ability to provide superior service to their customers.

"In addition, the finances have stepped up their own dealership training to help improve customer satisfaction through better service. OMVIC has enabled us to raise the bar of



With over 9,000 registered new and used car dealers employing more than 18,000 registered sales personnel in Ontario, industry regulation is no small task. Despite these daunting numbers, OMVIC has been successful in its attempts to identify the industry's problem areas and introduce effective changes.

Carl Compton, executive director of GMHC, says that the success is due to a real desire among the dealers themselves to raise the bar for improvement.

"In the self-managed industries, the leaders have been far less tolerant of potential troublemakers than was the case with bureaucrat and the court system. These registered dealers have made a major financial and ethical commitment to improving the industry's image and are prepared to deal harshly with those who侵入 their toll."

ience when it comes to serving the customer," says Becker, who is also a past president of the Toronto Mobile Dealers Association (TADA). "Because of our commitment as new car dealers, OMVIC was able to succeed in establishing a new code of ethics and formulating specific standards for marketing and advertising across the province."

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themselves towards our clients. It reflects our desire to maintain a high standard of professionalism and customer service."

## Monitoring Advertising

OMVIC's attitude towards advertising in the industry is just as tough as its other initiatives. In 1998, OMVIC, working with a number of organizations including TADA, developed a stringent advertising and marketing code — one of the most comprehensive in North America.

"We have made great strides as far as advertising standards go," says Compton. "Outrageous claims are no longer the problem and we are now concentrating on the finer points of disclosure. The consumer is in a better position to benefit from advertising produced by the industry today because it provides greater disclosure of the wide range of options in buying or leasing a vehicle."

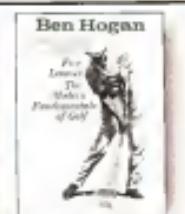


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Drivers wanted. 

## Cleaning Up the Industry

"There are probably more active carjailers today than there are registered dealers," says Compton. Carjailer is an industry term for someone who poses as a private seller but is actually in the business of selling stolen vehicles, wrecks, and odometer-tampered vehicles. "Consumers have to be aware that if they buy privately they have no real protection against unforeseen problems," argues Reinecker. "OMVIC's compensation fund only applies to those who go through a registered dealer. It is really important to know who you are dealing with," Reinecker continues. "The presence of OMVIC really demonstrates our commitment to maintaining a sense of professionalism in our industry. Our initiatives towards improved consumer protection and first-rate service are clear examples of the pride we have in our industry, and our commitment to our valued clients."

between the United States and Canada. Another was the November, 1997 Border Vision agreement between Canada and the United States. In aim was to stop unwanted visitors, but not impede the \$1.4-billion-a-day trade between the two countries.

The Lacolle Project is one of the fruits of that agreement. Canada hopes to place an agent at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York to assist in checking stories of refugees at the Quebec border, while an American agent will be stationed at Lacolle. With access to different data bases, the agents will be able to verify the stories of refugees and identify fraudulent claims immediately.

Canadian immigration intelligence documents, obtained by *Maclean's*, show that Sri Lankans and Pakistanis,

the intelligence services also reveal that refugee claimants from Russia and Kazakhstan continue to pose problems at the Canadian border but the largest growth in refugees to Canada is from Argentina, whose nationals have been exempted from having to possess U.S. visas since July, 1996. Conversely, Americans have been complaining about Canada's visa-exempt status for Mexicans, Costa Ricans and now South Koreans; about 100 Koreans were caught entering Washington state from British Columbia earlier this month.

That might have resulted in a diplomatic row, but under the Border Vision agreement the dispute is being handled by a visa coordination committee. Canada requires no visa for 52 countries, while the United States gives visas to almost no more than 52 countries. "We will

decide how a fraction of the Chinese migrants who are suspected of arriving in Canada each year. The United States confronts the same problem, but many of the legal arrivals to Canada end up in the United States (U.S. immigration authorities conservatively estimate that between 3,000 and 5,000 Chinese enter the United States illegally each year, almost all of them from Canada).

Demetri Papademetriou, an immigration expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington-based think tank, says the American media sprawl has been to locate suspected smuggling ships outside U.S. territory and escort them to Mexico, which is not bound to consider refugee claims because it did not sign the Geneva convention on refugees. As a result, Papademetriou says, "there is a quick turnaround process" — returning the passengers to China on flights paid by Washington. The same effect, Papademetriou says, has been extended to Canada. Canadian government officials contacted by *Maclean's* would neither confirm nor deny that assertion.

According to Papademetriou, who just completed a two-year study on North American border integration, the United States is cooperating with Canada "across a remarkable number of potentially contentious areas." He envisions the Canada-U.S. border gradually disappearing "without any real compromise in any of the important respects or revenue collection priorities of each partner." And the Lacolle Project, he adds, is the type of experimentation that is essential to convincing Washington and Ottawa to take further steps.

But not everyone shares that enthusiasm. Some Canadians criticize the coy collaboration that weakens Canada's refugee system—and result in legitimate claimants being turned away. That concern notwithstanding, Canadian immigration officials are pleased with the U.S. acknowledgement that the border is a two-way street—and that both countries need to cooperate if they hope to stem the flow of unscrupulous migrants. ■



*Border post at Lacolle investigating human smuggling through the United States*

the main current refugee claimants at Lacolle, have been going into the United States on false Indian passports. That information has been sent to airports and airline officials overseas, as well as immigration agents at airports across the United States. Investigators have found that people intent on becoming refugee claimants in Canada are flying into airports as far away as Los Angeles before they make their way north, usually crossing in the Niagara area or Lacolle, the two most popular entry points.)

never be directly coordinated," says Greg Lashkevich, an immigration Canada intelligence analyst, "but we'll be far closer together—we have to be."

That new joint approach extends to the sharing of U.S. surface intelligence to identify potential people-smuggling ships arriving off the West Coast. Among the main concerns is people smuggling from China, a problem that affects both countries. In widely publicized cases last summer, officials in British Columbia detained 550 Chinese refugee claimants who arrived in



## Return of an icon

A historic church bell may be restored to its Métis roots

By D'Arcy Marsh in Millbrook

**By all accounts**, the legendary bell of Batoche is a tarnished, unadorned silver-plated object that stands just 30 cm high, and weighs 36 kg. Produced in Spain in the early 1800s and blessed by a Canadian Catholic bishop, the bell hung in a church in the Métis settlement of Batoche, 75 km south of present-day Saskatoon, where it was used to announce Sunday masses, funerals and weddings. But in the tumultuous spring of 1885, after Louis Riel and the Métis mounted an unsuccessful armed resistance against the Canadian government, the bell disappeared. Vietnamese soldiers from Millbrook, Ont., a farming village 100 km northeast of Toronto, took it home as a war trophy. For Millbrook residents, the bell has long since lost its luster, but it is still revered by the Métis. "The bell is part of our history," says Gerald Morris, president of the Métis National Council. "It always has spiritual significance."

That said, there was—until likely this week—no small problem with

this historic symbol. The bell hasn't been seen, publicly at any rate, for nine years. It hung for several decades in the Millbrook firehall before being put on display at the local Legion during the 1980s. Métis organizations occasionally tried to recover the bell, but were rebuffed by descendants of the 1885 veterans. And in October, 1991, about a week after a solo visit by six Métis activists, there was a break-in at the Legion and the bell was stolen. But it is reported to have surfaced during the week-long annual Métis celebration, beginning on July 24 in the Batoche area. Shortly after Saskatchewan Aboriginal Affairs Minister Jack Hillion last week promised that there would be no criminal charges involving the bell, Hillion and Morris said an unidentified person claimed he would present the bell during Batoche 2000. "If it happens," says Morris, "it will be a joyous occasion."

The Métis perspective will come across loud and clear in *Crusading*, a new play that opens for a four-week run on Aug. 5. The production is being staged in an unusual venue—a rolling meadow on scenic director Robert Winslow's 100-acre farm just outside the village. *Crusading*, says Winslow, who co-wrote the drama with native playwright Greg Daniel, goes beyond the story of the bell to explore the forces that led to the 1885 conflict. The 50-member cast includes Métis and Cree actors from Saskatchewan. "I talked there were real political passions behind the break-in at the Legion," says Winslow. "Someone obviously said, 'They've had one bell for 106 years. We're going to get it back!'"



These passions, my some Métis, can be traced back to 1885, a pivotal year in their history. Batoche, where Riel declared a provisional government, was completely destroyed, never rebuilt, and is now a national historic park. Defeat on the battlefield led to the execution of the charismatic Riel. In most historical accounts, the Métis leaders have been treated as traitors, their followers as rebels and the conflict itself has become known as the Northwest Rebellion. "We didn't want the history books," says Tony Belcourt, president of the Métis Nation of Ontario, "and we very definitely have a different view of 1885."

The Métis perspective will come across loud and clear in *Crusading*. Cast member Cheryl L'Huillier-

*Rehearsing Crusading: Bell (below). It's not a joyous occasion'*

McNamee, a Métis storyteller from Batoche, Sask., says her people remained a legitimate and courageous resistance against a dictatorial government that refused to recognize them or grant them title to their lands. "The Métis took up arms after setting up a provisional government," she says. "So you can't say they were rebelling. They were defending their land, and resisting another government."

The task of portraying the motives of the Millbrook men who joined the fight fell to Winslow, whose grandfather Charles Winslow served in the 1885 campaign. The playwright, who worked for more than a decade as an actor and director in Toronto and Edmonton, inherited the family farm in 1990 and promptly founded 4th Line so he could use the property to stage large, historical dramas. His company has mounted 12 works, all original, starting with a play about the Caron Bluffs, a group of tough, Protestant lumberjacks from the surrounding townships who maintained Catholic services in the 1860s. "This was a very strong Protestant Orange order from the beginning," says Winslow. "In 1885, lumbermen were there to keep Canada British and Protestant."

But even in Millbrook, times change. Joe McGrail, 61, a retired concession officer and past-president of the Legion, says some branch members wanted to hold a vote in the spring of 1991 to return the bell to the Métis. They also formed a committee, after the theft, that worked with Métis organizations to try to recover the item. Now that the bell has turned up, at last, we welcomed it into our community," Winslow and he hoped his finale for *Crusading*—the return of the bell to Batoche—would no longer be fictional. For his part, Morris said the Métis may have a new hero—the person who brings the bell back to Batoche. And why not? A 115-year odyssey with a happy ending.

With John Eaton in Toronto

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The successful bidder will be flown via British Airways to Dufftown, Scotland to receive the rare bottle from Company Chairman and great grandson of the founder, Mr. Sandy Grant Gordon at the coker where the whisky matured. Full payment is made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation prior to departure. Interest in rare and limited editions of unique single malts is increasing at an unprecedented rate according to Martin Green, whisky expert in Cheshire, the world's leading auctioneer. The Glenfiddich 50-year-old is in great demand amongst connoisseurs around the world but opportunities to acquire one are very rare as the Grant Family rarely makes the few remaining bottles available and these only for the most worthwhile cause.

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The Green Acres campsite—shattered after a deadly tornado

## Picking up the pieces

**As campers returned** to Green Acres, the tornado-wrecked resort on Pine Lake in central Alberta, the sight of their destroyed campers, trucks and cars was too much for some to bear. The 300-km-an-hour storm claimed 11 lives and caused millions of dollars in property damage. The extent of the tragedy was not lost on Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, who also toured the site. In a week and a half, Chrétien federal money for the relief effort. He was escorted by park owners Danny and Lucy Fisher, who explained that the

Green Acres campsite—founded by Danny Fisher's father—has been a holiday destination for 55 years. "Look at that," said the Prime Minister as he pointed to the Fisher's ruined home. "When I went to Sarajevo, it was a bit like that."

Jean Geran was one of the first of 432 people to visit the campsite, and broke into tears when she saw her battered motor home. "I'm just confused and anxious," Geran said as she walked down the hill to her family's ruined campsite. Meanwhile, tornadoes threatened other parts of Canada. Even as people returned to Pine Lake, a 250-km-an-hour twister ripped through Guelph, Ont., a city of 95,000 people. 100 km west of Toronto, snarling up trees and shattering off sections of roofs as it roared down. There were no reports of serious injuries.

## Calling off the search for a missing boy

The RCMP in northern Manitoba ended the official search for an eight-year-old boy five days after he went missing on July 15 during a hunting trip. Spokesmen said it was unlikely that young Marcus McKay could have survived in the bush for that long with nighttime temperatures dropping to near-freezing. During the trip, about 300 km north of Winnipeg, the boy got lost and died to his death with a family killed later while his stepfather went to find other members of their party. When his stepfather returned, Marcus had disappeared.

## Questions after a deadly accident

A crash on Highway 401, in eastern Ontario killed five people, injured 10 others, and ignited a debate over collision-averse drivers on highways. The van, which was en route to Montreal, was being driven by an 18-year-old who received his licence only two months ago. Independent car companies offer passengers a considerable

saving over bus fares, charging between \$25 and \$30 for a trip from Toronto to Montreal compared to the \$86 that Greyhound charges. But authorities say safety may be compromised. Spokesmen for the Ontario Highway Transport Board said Jason Travel, the Quebec-based firm that operated the van involved in the accident, will be shut down. Meanwhile, authorities in both Ontario and Quebec were investigating the company.

## Out in the cold

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Métis and non-Indian Indians can legally be excluded from sharing in the profits of government-owned casinos in Ontario. The case involved around Casino Rama, 110 km north of Toronto, which distributes millions of dollars to registered native bands.

## No Alliance groundswell

According to a new poll by Economics Research Group Ltd., the federal Liberals still hold a strong lead in public opinion with 44 per cent support. The poll showed that, despite the wade-around publicity surrounding the Canadian Alliance's reserve leadership campaign, the party's support has remained stagnant, rising only three points between April and July to 21 per cent. The Alliance's new leader, Stockwell Day, announced last week that he will seek a parliamentary seat in the B.C. riding of Okanagan-Capitan.

## A decrease in crime

Statistics Canada reported that the national crime rate, including drug and disturbing the peace offences, fell by five per cent in 1998—the eighth consecutive annual drop. Violent crime was down by 2.4 per cent, while youth crime decreased by 7.2 per cent.

## Steps to a tragedy

According to court records released in Kitchener, Ont., Bill Lark, who killed his wife and four children before committing suicide July 6, once had his wife, Bohemian, who was part of a music cult. He made the claim during a custody battle over his daughter Nicole when the couple separated in 1997. They reconciled in 1998.

## A controversial lawsuit

Vancouver psychologist Colleen Hurley launched a lawsuit against the Sunshine Adoption Agency, alleging that it failed to inform her the child she adopted from China suffered an inflammation of the bone marrow that could result in permanent disability. Hurley says she was unaware of the affliction throughout the adoption process, which took more than a year and cost \$12,000.



## She's one fun nun

Maripat Donovan got her fill of Catholic liturgy growing up in Chicago. "We went to mass and said the rosary every day," she says. "I was 10 years old and my teeth gritted." But her upbringing provided fodder for Late Night With Conan O'Brien, a hilarious television show that ends its Montreal run on July 30. She and writing partner Vicki Quinn wrote the interactive one-woman show, which features Donovan dressed in a habit as "Sister" leading a catechism class to students—the audience. Donovan quizzes people about saints and items such as "immaculate conception." She rewards correct answers with trinkets such as glow-in-the-dark rosaries and chokes people for bad etiquette. Shoving up in a short skirt is a definite faux pas. "Violent crime was down by 2.4 per cent, while youth crime decreased by 7.2 per cent."

The play doesn't lampoon nuns; in fact, at the end of each show, she collects money for financially struggling sisters. Donovan who appeared in Toronto three years ago and finds Canadian audiences "much friendlier and livelier than Toronto"—which, she adds, is like "read-battlefield. They're dull and aimed."

## A daughter's tribute

Melissa Toews has a knack for making things funny—which comes in handy when the award-winning humour writer began her third book, *Strong Like A Life*. It tells the story of Mel Toews' Manitoba father, who battled depression and eventually committed suicide. And while it's hardly a rip-roaring comedy, it's surprisingly full of humour and joy.

Toews, 36, poker-aficionado from a

# People

Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith  
with Shonda Denzel



## Jackson keeps on giving

In any given day, Tom Jackson has several projects on the go. For one, there is Jackson the philanthropist, who endlessly raises money for the homeless across Canada. Then, Jackson the musician, who organizes the annual Dreamcatcher concert tour, which raises awareness of teen suicide. And Jackson the actor, who recently finished shooting *The Longboat Ride*, a children's series he created, which will air on TVOntario and Aboriginal Peoples Television Network in September.

Born on the One Arrow reserve near Batoche, Sask., Jackson moved to Winnipeg with his family at age 15, and immediately chose to leave the reserve. "When I got into the city," says Jackson, "the bright lights, in I recall them, were really bright." Even into his 30s, with a budding music career, Jackson lived a distinctly decadent life. Now 51, he's a very straight and settled family man, who says he doesn't regret those early dither days—"not for a second, not even for a millisecond."

Jackson hopes to pass along the wisdom gained from these earlier life experiences through projects like *The Longboat Ride*, which he hopes will provide a "higher moral ground" for children to embrace.

One adage he plans on sharing is that the gift is in the giving. And who better than Jackson—a man who, by his own estimate, gives over half of his own earnings to humanitarian causes—to teach that lesson?



her father's Métis roots in Steinbach, Man. But she also condemns the small community where Mel eventually became a teacher and raised a family. "He was just sort of a helpmate," says Toews, "in the face of all that silence, denial and religious oppression."

Toews, who has two children and lives in Winnipeg, greeted many Steinbach residents at the launch. "They said, 'Reading your book was just like eating with Mel,'" recalls Toews. "And to me that's the biggest thing: that I was kind of able to bring him back."

# 'I Lost Everything'

*It was a historic moment for the hundreds of people forced to work for the Third Reich during the Second World War. Last week, Jewish groups and other governments accepted a German plan to create a \$7.7-billion compensation fund. Concentration camp survivors who worked as slave labourers will receive a one-time payment of \$10,500. The survivors, known as forced labourers, will receive \$3,650. The agreement could affect as many as a million people, including 30,000 Canadians. In interviews with Maclean's Associate Editor Susan McCollum, four survivors tell their stories and explain why they believe Germany should pay compensation.*

**Like so many people,** Rausan Ziegler, 72, witnessed horrific crimes committed by German forces during the Second World War. While he says he can forgive those for the torture and mental anguish he suffered, he vows never to "forgive them for shattering my faith in God." Ziegler, a survivor of the six years of slave labour, 2½ of them in German concentration camps, that he was subjected to. And with his wife, Miriam, 65, also a Jewish concentration camp survivor who has not been in Canada following the war, he struggled to build a comfortable life as a building contractor in Toronto—an outcome neither could have imagined during those terrible years.

Ziegler, who was born in Dolnowa, Poland, is a soft-spoken but impassioned man. He spent the war in four different concentration and slave-labour camps, including Sport Schule in Dresdow, Poland. Miriam, who is from Badon-

Poland, was imprisoned at Auschwitz when she was only 18; she still has a photograph, taken by Russian troops when they liberated the camp on Jan. 27, 1945, of her peering from behind barbed wire. "I lost my family because of the war," said Miriam in an anti-filled lunch at her sprawling, North Toronto home. "I lost everything."

Life in Canada has helped fill the void. Miriam and Rausan have three children and four grandchildren. But no amount of compensation, says Rausan, can replace the family and friends they lost at the hands of the Germans. By accepting a payout, however, they believe they are forcing Germany and the corporations that used hundreds of thousands of slave labourers, to unequivocally admit their guilt.

Although Miriam was a child, she was forced to work long and physically grueling hours as if she were an adult, driving bricks and loading more. One of her more horrifying



**Miriam Ziegler (right)** as a child in Auschwitz and with her husband, Rausan, at their Toronto home. Helen and Janusz Kolenychuk (opposite) say many, no, *any* amount of compensation will not be enough for the suffering they were forced to endure.



## The German government prepares to compensate the Third Reich's slave labourers

memory is of the day she witnessed a guard shooting and killing her infant cousin as the baby slept in Miriam's mother's arms. Miriam, meanwhile, helped fix highways and built dams for the German government, as well as in the slave-labour camp, the Sport Schule, where he later lived. He also bore witness to summary digging graves for fellow Jews in an era of almost casual brutality. At the first camp he was sent to, the Nazi commandant would line workers up each Sunday. If that fell from their clothing when he tapped them with his whip, he would beat them. On another occasion, "he hit me over the head so hard it cracked my skull," says Rausan. Ziegler still bears the scar.

**Adele Uchanski** had just attended the evening service at the Roman Catholic Church in Zwierzecie, a tiny Polish farming town, when German police grabbed her off the streets at that terrible night in 1941. They dragged the frightened teenager into the basement of a house that once housed a Polish dignitary, where she was imprisoned for two days with other girls. They were then packed onto a train along with hundreds of other prisoners and sent to eastern Germany, where she would spend the next four years working 12-hour days in a military clothing factory.

Uchanski, now 76, had studied German in school, and was quickly promoted from sewing to counting merchandise. "It was such long hours," recalls Uchanski, who immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1950 with her husband, Stanislaw, who, as a prisoner of war, had been forced to work on the front of an SS officer. The couple settled in Lethbridge, Alta., where Uchanski worked in a brick factory and her husband on the railways, and they raised two children.

Along with hunger, fear was constant during the war. Labourers who worked beside Uchanski often disappeared and Uchanski dreaded that she would face the same fate. She also recall in the same factories with many older Germans who were forced to work because the young were serving in the army. "They wanted to have us with you," Uchanski says, "and when the girls didn't, they would be raped."



Because of the time she spent working for the German state, Uchanski receives a German pension that averages out to about \$70 a month. The new compensation package will not change what she received. "It's not much for what we worked," she says. "Probably we could get more, but we have no choice. We must take what we are given."

**Joseph Kolenychuk** was a slight, dark-haired 17-year-old in 1943 when the Germans came to the technical school he attended in the Ukrainian town of Berdichev. At gunpoint, they marched the male students to a train and forced them onto a bus. "Some tried to escape," recalls Kolenychuk, 76, a retired Calgary jurist who lives with his wife, Helen, in the three-bedroom bungalow where they raised four children. Some were successful, others were shot making the attempt. Kolenychuk was taken to Germany and put to work on a farm, where he stayed for two years.

Helen Kolenychuk was 15 when the Germans coerced her into leaving her village, Izbica, in Ukraine in 1942. They promised her that if she worked for three months on a German farm as a forced labourer, they would not take her older brother, Myroslaw, who was married and starting a family. Helen agreed and was shipped to a farm near the town of Ulm in southern Germany. The work was hard—she took care of cattle, harvested the fields and cooked. And the Germans reengaged on their pastime, forcing her to remain on the farm until the end of the war.

She never again saw her parents, who died during the war. Hlybory, whom she thought she was saving, was forced into the German army in 1943 and disappeared without a trace. She is currently receiving a state pension from the German government of about \$29 a month. "Those who were in concentration camps, who worked in harsh conditions for the Germans, these people need to be compensated," she says. But no amount of money will ever be enough.

*With George Sedgwick in Toronto*

**GEORGE SEDGWICK**

1610

Photo: AP

# Diamonds and blood



*Diamond prospectors at work in Sierra Leone, fueling conflict in Africa*

A secretive and powerful industry finally takes steps to halt the trade in illegal gems

By Barry Coe in Antwerp

**In the jargon** of the diamond trade, they are known as "conflict" or sometimes "blood" gems. No one knows exactly how many of the \$60 billion diamond cut and polished every year may fall into the category: perhaps four per cent of total world production, perhaps as much as 10 per cent. But there are plenty of people, like Canada's Ian Smillie, who are surely aware that the diamonds that are being mined and sold illegally are fueling ferocious civil wars in African trouble spots from Sierra Leone to Angola. For the past year, Smillie has been in the forefront of a global effort to stamp out the illicit trade. And last week in Antwerp, the

old Flemish city in northern Belgium that has been the world's diamond capital for the past 500 years, Smillie had reason to celebrate. "We've turned the corner," he said, with satisfaction. "What we have witnessed here may be the beginning of the end of something that has brought misery to so many for so long."

Smillie's optimistic remarks were prompted by the outcome of the latest World Diamond Congress, two-way gathering of the notoriously secretive industry's major dealers, cutters and polishers. For four days last week, some 350 delegates from around the planet assembled in Antwerp to engage in often acrimonious debate over how to confront mounting international pres-

sure. Every package of rough gems will have to be shipped in sealed bags, with the content of each sealed with an international database. To give the procedure teeth, a new body provisionally named the International Diamond Council, will be established to ensure that no diamonds from illegitimate sources are traded. Composed of representatives of producers, manufacturers, traders, governments and international organizations, the proposed policing authority will have the power to automatically banished traders who knowingly violate the system from industry organizations.

Over the longer term, under an illicit gems may also face criminal charges if governments in producing and importing countries act on the proposals recommended by the Diamond Congress last week. The industry wants host governments to enact legislation encompassing the measures set out in the nine-point program, including criminal penalties for any violation. Government co-operation, in fact, is critical to the success of the industry's plan. To that end, industry and government representatives met last Thursday in London to evaluate the results of the Antwerp gathering, as well as the outcomes of a consultative process that began last May in South Africa and will culminate at the end of the year with a ministerial-level conference, also scheduled for South Africa.

For a business that is still largely conducted behind closed doors, often on the basis of nothing more than a nod and handshake between long-time confidantes, the pace of change has been nothing short of remarkable. "I've never seen an industry change gears so fast," noted Smillie, formerly executive director of the Canadian University Service Overseas and now a private international aid consultant based in Ottawa. Until quite recently, many in the diamond trade refused to even acknowledge that blood gems were a problem.

But pressure has been brought to bear on the industry, much of it coming from Canada, which did not even have a rough diamond trade until 1998, when the three million-carat-per-year Etkin



**'We watched our fur industry destroyed by a small number of activists. Many do not like this parallel but it is germane.'**

Robert Fowler  
Canadian ambassador to the United Nations on July 12 at the World Diamond Congress in Antwerp

mine opened 300 km northeast of Yekatitka. The two major preceding mines, also in the Northwest Territories, are still under development, raising the prospect that Canada will be producing 10 per cent of the world's diamonds by 2010.

It is one reason why there was a significant Canadian presence in Antwerp last week. Robert Fowler, the Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, addressed the gathering, as did the Northwest Territories' resources minister, Joseph Handley. Both warned the assembled delegates that failure to grapple publicly with the issue of conflict diamonds could involve a consumer backlash, one that could threaten not only the \$9-billion-a-year trade in rough diamonds but, even more chilling, the \$30-billion business in the polished finished product. "In Canada in the 1970s," warned Fowler, "we watched our fur industry, the business upon which our country was founded, destroyed by a small number of very well and very effective animal-rights

activists. A vibrant, 400-year-old industry was all but annihilated by an extremely deft manipulation of consumer consciousness. Many do not like that parallel but it is. I will continue to argue, germane to your discussion here."

Canada, of course, was not alone in applying pressure. Fowler was speaking for the United Nations in his capacity as chairman of the Security Council committee on Angola sanctions, which is currently engaged in a program to cut the diamond funding of Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels in that country. Smillie represented the Canadian contingent of a worldwide NGO coalition mandated to clamp down on the illicit diamond trade that is fueling ongoing armed conflict in six African states.

No matter what the source, the collective pressure clearly had an impact on De Beers, the South African-headquartered mining conglomerate, which controls 70 per cent of global trade in uncut diamonds. De Beers also purchases 35 per cent of the rough stones mined at Canadian Blue's operation. It is also engaged in a hostile takeover of Wijdebosch Diamond Inc. of Vancouver, which hopes to open a diamond mine south of Etkin. And to assure consumers that their diamonds were mined legally, De Beers will offer written guarantees to that fact.

Some diamond manufacturers are already engaged in even more effective practices. Jean Ben-Oïd, whose family has been in the trade in Toronto and Vancouver for 25 years, purchased a \$200,000 laser last year when he opened a business in Yellowknife to cut and polish gems, many from the new Etkin mine. Every diamond that Ben-Oïd ships from the facility is now branded with the tiny symbol of a polar bear, so small that it can only be seen with a magnifying glass. "We wanted to put our Canadian diamonds," he said, "so people will know that they are pure." According to Ben-Oïd, the system has "gone down well" with both jewelers and consumers—neither of whom want any connection with conflict diamonds, whose glow is tainted with the blood of thousands. ■

## A catnap in Parliament

**Yasser Arafat** tries to wake his allies, Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid, who fell asleep during a parliamentary session in Jakarta. Wahid had been summoned to face an angry government over his controversial decision to sack two cabinet ministers following allegations of corruption. In addition to the scandals, opponents have criticized Wahid's inability to control violent clashes between Christians and Muslims on the Maluku Islands, where thousands have died.



## Inching towards Middle East peace

**After nine days** of talks, the Middle East peace negotiations at Camp David seemed close to collapse. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had returned to their cabin at the U.S. presidential retreat in Maryland, and Barak, who accused the Palestinian leader of negotiating in bad faith, was planning to head home. But last week, when Barak proposed a new compromise on the thorny questions surrounding the status of Jerusalem, the two leaders decided to keep talking—even though their host, President Bill Clinton, had to fly to Okinawa, Japan for a meeting of the G-8 countries. Clinton delayed his departure by a day, then handed over the reins to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. "We disagreed," said Clinton, "but nobody wanted to give up."

Whether a final deal could be reached was far from certain at week's end. Israel claimed that its capital, the Palestinian want coun-

## Parading for the Queen Mum

To celebrate her forthcoming 100th birthday, the Queen Mother viewed an eclectic parade through central London. The event, meant to chronicle the achievements of the past century, featured everything from dandies dressed as hippies and Beatles impersonators to military bands. "It's been a joy to be here," she said after watching the 90-minute parade with her grandson, Prince Charles. "I would like to say a heartfelt thank you." The Queen Mother's actual birthday is on Aug. 4.

## Autonomy for Corsica?

The Mediterranean island of Corsica, controlled by France and ruled by separate violence for 20 years, is closer to gaining autonomy after politicians accepted French proposals to alter the constitution and eventually allow the island's assembly to change laws passed in Paris. Anti-French partisans have staged hundreds of bombings in Corsica, but they declared a ceasefire in December when negotiations seemed to end the violence began.

## Labour's red faces

British Prime Minister Tony Blair ordered an investigation into a leaked memo in which a senior adviser said the Labour government's image is severely tarnished. "The New Labour brand has been compromised," said the memo, written by Philip Gould, Blair's personal-opinion pollster, and distributed to newspapers. It was the second damaging memo to be leaked in a week, and castigated with polls showing Blair's popularity in plummeting.

## Confrontation in Hanoi

A crowd of noisy demonstrators greeted Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe as he arrived at his country's parliament to open a new session. In the June 24 to 25 elections, Mugabe's ZANU-PF party won a reduced majority, with fully 57 of the 150 seats in parliament going to the opposition Movement for Democratic Change. Mugabe vowed to continue his controversial program of nationalizing firms owned by white Zimbabweans.



## Diane Francis

# A better idea for schools

A simple, compassionate idea from my 85-year-old friend, an millionaire investor Bram Appel, is a model for how elementary schools can do a better job for underprivileged kids. As a response to its effectiveness, the Ontario government is adopting the concept of the Bram Appel School-Bond Project in four more schools.

Appel's idea began after he was approached by a major university to make a donation. That got him thinking about his Montreal childhood and education, generally. "My reflections led me to believe that it was the primary schools, particularly in their first years, which needed financial assistance much more urgently than did graduate institutions," he said in a speech last month to a fund-raising dinner for the Hôpital-Decker Institute (a child and adolescent treatment centre in Toronto), which he and his wife, Bina, one of the country's leading arts philanthropists, have supported for many years. "My parents were immigrants and knew financial difficulties. I was a pupil in an inner-city school. That experience left an indelible impression. Half the kids I went to school with were on to become successful and many of the others ended up in jail."

Appel was one of the lucky ones.

He grew up in a tough neighbourhood, but was scholarly. He became a chartered accountant and then a fabulously successful venture capitalist. His first such investment came at the Second World War involving his best friend, David Pall. The two were wild kids and had become buddies at McGill University. After graduating, Appel went into the business world. Meanwhile, Pall, a physician, was recruited by the March of Dimes Project to work on the atomic bomb. After the war, he decided to stay in the States to try to commercialize some inventions. Appel gave him his life savings, about \$5,000, at a handshake and the result was Pall Corporation, now a multinational operation recognized as the world leader in filtration technology (its blood products are used universally; in Canada 100 per cent of blood collected is processed through Pall filters). This investment made both men extremely wealthy.

But Appel never forgot his humble beginnings and how the socialization process of school was so important to the social learning. As he put it in his speech: "The first social unit to which all children are exposed is the public school. Their reaction to this experience affects their future relationship to all other social institutions. Yet nothing induces to develop good, well educated citizens. The achievement of both these goals is, I feel, an essential need."

Bram Appel reflected from his childhood experience that poverty was debilitating, that underachievement led to lat-

ter, withdrawn children. Poor kids would become angry, resentful and hostile. Schools didn't make studying interesting, or fun. Children with working parents often returned home to empty apartments and turned to the internet for company and guidance. As a result, far too many kids viewed learning as an unpleasant experience and felt society did not care about them. "To help deal with these problems, I encouraged a program that would encourage all children to have their breakfast, lunch and in-between snacks in school," he explained in the speech. "Admittedly, nourished, their morale and ability to learn would improve. Living together in this manner would build a team spirit. They would tend to become creative social units rather than isolated individuals."

Finding a school was not easy. He looked at poor areas, but excluded those with a high immigrant population. "Immigrants will find their children feel before themselves and encourage them to get an education to get ahead," he once told me. Also, immigrant families are more common among new arrivals so that children are not left to their own devices. Instead, he wanted a school in an area where poverty had been multi-generational. He suggested a few locations, but usually found resistance by educators eager to protect their turf.

He designed a five-year program that would finance in the hopes that it would serve as a pilot and be adopted by government. Hôpital-Decker agreed to manage the \$170,000-a-year program and selected a school in North Bay. Staffs would be prepared and served by relatives, friends or other volunteers. This, he reasoned, would also help create a constituency among the volunteers. Specialized teachers would provide exciting after-school programs. Students academically inclined could participate in sports; those musically inclined could learn and play those with dramatic ambitions could act and act out their parts. "Appel and I, his speech,

For each of the past two years, some 250 kids from junior kindergarten to Grade 1 have benefited from Appel's program of enrichment and nourishment. Based on its success, the province has introduced a similar program in four other Ontario schools, with some cost cuts between the private and public sectors. Other schools should adopt it, too. Appel's approach is simple and he maintains it is cost effective. It's also very innovative and has reaped huge benefits for the youngest and volunteers involved.

Appel, a modest person with a big heart, is quietly pleased with the results. In quantifying its possible future benefits, he lapses into the language of accounting. "It costs \$50,000 a year to keep someone in jail," he says. "This program costs only \$700 a child." But, Appel adds, it's just as important "to bring heart ... to our school system."

# Breach of Trust

The Royal Bank's pension arm is hit with some of the toughest penalties ever imposed on dealers—but critics say it's not enough

By D'Arcy Jersin

**Peter Larkin, the man at the centre of one of Bay Street's biggest-ever stock manipulation scandals, walked bravely but weakly from a disciplinary hearing at the Ontario Securities Commission—head down, shoulders stooped, and not a word in his defense. Right behind him were eight colleagues from Toronto-based RT Capital Management Inc., including chairman Michael Edwards. They were equally tight-lipped. Small wonder. The OSC had just levied a \$3-million fine on RT Capital, the pension management arm of the Royal Bank, Canada's largest financial institution. In addition, there were individual penalties, ranging from Edwards' one-month suspension from any involvement in financial markets, to Larkin's lifetime ban on trading securities for others, and a stinging rebuke from the**

three-member panel that presided over the hearing. "Such actions will not be taken lightly," OSC vice-chairman Jack Geller said of the trading techniques that led to artificially high values for some of RT's pension funds. "Investors have the right to be dealt with fairly."

Immediately after the hearing, Royal Bank vice-chairman Ray Mackay announced that six employees implicated in the scandal were resigning and another was retiring. Edwards was removed as RT Capital chairman but remains a director, while one executive had already retired. Also caught up in the affair were 13 outside brokers, 12 of whom acknowledged their roles and received trading suspensions of up to 2½ months, as well as fines ranging from \$390,000. The bank, meanwhile, moved quickly to restore credibility by appointing former Tait Finance minister and RBC Dominion Securities vice-chairman Michael Wilson as chairman and chief execu-



**The OSC's sweeping investigation flushed out RT Capital board members, managers and traders**



#### SUSPENDED

**MICHAEL EDWARDS**  
Chairman and director, RT Capital Inc. and CEO of the pension manager. RT Investment Management Holdings Inc.

**Penalty:**  
Prohibited from being a director or officer of any public company or other market participant in Canada for one month. Fines \$3,000 in costs.  
• Resigned as chairman  
RT Capital director in a month



#### RESIGNED

**TIMOTHY GRIFFIN**  
President, CEO and director

**Penalty:**  
Prohibited from being a director or officer of any public company or other market participant in Canada for 12 months. Fines \$10,000 in costs.



#### RETIRIED

**PETER RODRIGUES**  
Non-executive chairman and director. Responsible for operational aspects of RT Capital's business, including the trading system.

**Penalty:**  
Prohibited from being a director or officer of any public company or other market participant in Canada for one month. Fines \$10,000 in costs.



#### ALREADY RETIRED

**DONALD WEBSTER**  
Former non-executive chairman and director. Responsible for financial and strategic planning.

**Penalty:**  
Prohibited from being a director or officer of any public company or other market participant in Canada for one month. Fines \$10,000 in costs.



#### SUSPENDED

**JENNIFER LEDERMAN**  
Senior vice-president, Canadian equities, and director. Responsible for \$1.3 billion in assets under management. Senior portfolio manager in the Canadian equities division.

**Penalty:**  
Permanent suspension of securities trading license and prohibited from being a director or officer of a public company or other market participant in Canada for three months. Fines \$30,000 in costs.



#### RESIGNED

**PETER LARKIN**  
Non-executive chairman and director. Responsible for managing \$5.5 billion in assets under management.

**Penalty:**  
Permanent suspension of securities trading license and prohibited from being a director or officer of a public company or other market participant in Canada for three years. Most of the fine is suspended in Canada. Fines \$10,000 in costs.



#### RESIGNED

**GARY BAKER**  
Non-executive chairman and director. Responsible for managing \$5.5 billion in assets under management.

**Penalty:**  
Permanent suspension of securities trading license and prohibited from being a director or officer of a public company or other market participant in Canada for three years. Most of the fine is suspended in Canada. Fines \$10,000 in costs.



#### RESIGNED

**MARION GILLESPIE**  
Senior equity trader in the equity division. Responsible for managing \$5.5 billion in assets under management.

**Penalty:**  
Permanent suspension of securities trading license and prohibited from being a director or officer of a public company or other market participant in Canada for three years. Most of the fine is suspended in Canada. Fines \$10,000 in costs.



#### RESIGNED

**PATRICK SHEA**  
Senior equity trader in the equity division. Responsible for managing \$5.5 billion in assets under management.

**Penalty:**  
Permanent suspension of securities trading license and prohibited from being a director or officer of a public company or other market participant in Canada for three years. Most of the fine is suspended in Canada. Fines \$10,000 in costs.

RT Capital's Toronto offices. *Photo: business*

utive of the beleaguered subsidiary, which manages \$37 billion worth of pension funds on behalf of major corporations such as Air Canada, Novartis Inc. and IBM Canada Ltd. "It has an impeccable reputation for integrity," said bank spokesman David Macrae. "We warned a guy like that to people know what's taking this seriously."

But several observers questioned whether the bank, or the OSC, had acted decisively enough. Montreal-based investment adviser Sophie Landowsky and finance stock trading scions will occur unless the corporate culture of companies like RT Capital change. Too many firms, he says, offer employees incentive bonus plans and apply intrinsic pressure to meet performance standards, practices which encourage staff to bend the rules or cheat outright. "They're going to catch more of these people," Landowsky says. "If you can collect a \$100,000 bonus for having a stock market index and you're just below it, what are you going to do? The incentive tempts people to dishonesty."

Others said they were disappointed that the penalties were not stiffer. Mike Sipp, managing director of Marshall Capital Corp. in Toronto, described the \$3-million fine as "not even as harmful as a parking ticket" for a company connected to an institution like the Royal Bank, which made \$1.7 billion in profits last year. And Toronto pension lawyer Murray Gold said the OSC did not deal harshly enough with RT Capital's six-member board, which rarely met, and failed to impose adequate controls on its employees. "They got a slap on the wrist," said Gold.

The punishment came down harder on four employees—executive fund managers Lakin and his colleagues Gary Baker, as well as stock traders French Shea and Marion

Gillespie—who indulged in a practice known as the “high class.” On 53 occasions between Oct. 30, 1988 and March 31, 1989, they bought shares in companies listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange just before the market closed at 4 p.m. The objective, according to the OSC, was “to create or maintain an up tick in the closing price, or otherwise, to prevent or rectify a downward.”

Lukins was the prime mover in the scheme, personally ordering 43 of the late-market purchases. In one case, he instructed Shek to buy 1,200 shares of Multibank NT Financial Corp. at \$19.83 apiece, whereas the price on the previous trade was only \$19. In effect, Lukins and Shek artificially added \$13 to the value of every Multibank share outstanding, including nearly 265,000 held in one RT Capital portfolio. The net increase in the value of these shares was \$3.6 million. All told, Lukins and his colleagues used the high close to pump up the value of their portfolio by nearly \$3.6 million.

In almost every case, they indulged in the practice at the end of the month, when portfolios are evaluated for tax purposes. Commission spokesman Frank Switzer says the 80-member enforcement department has doubled in size over the past two years, and the budget has grown from \$2.2 million to \$4.6 million in the same period. These changes followed the appointment of David Brown, who left a major law firm, Toronto-based Denton, Whin & Beck, to become chairman in April, 1988 and was determined to strengthen the OSC. “It’s all part of a plan to become a more vigilante watchdog,” says Switzer.

But some observers are looking for a commission that逮es in even bigger stick and packs more wallop. Gold says the OSC should have levied a bigger fine, or imposed tougher penalties on the director and senior executives in order to send a message about effective corporate governance. The member board of the company, according to the OSC, “did not communicate on a regular basis and rarely, if ever, are formally in person or as a group.” While well, senior executives failed to monitor trading practices of portfolio managers and the traders who worked under them. “The board did not take its responsibilities seriously,” says Gold. “The absence of checks and balances was embarrassing.” And the consequences—a financial scandal, ethics ratings and reputations in tatters—will be felt on Bay Street for years to come. ■



High-flying traders were brought down by a telephone taping system installed to prevent errors

*Without ensuring that stocks are bought for the benefit of clients, not fund managers*

a taping system installed at RT Capital in early October, 1988 to record conversations between employees and outside brokers, which has become routine in the industry to avoid errors. They did not know that the system was capturing internal discussions as well.

A year-long investigation by the TSE and OSC ended on June 29 with the announcement of the allegations. The company could have opted for a full hearing before a securities commission panel at which both sides could call witnesses and present evidence. Instead, RT Capital negotiated a quick settlement and absorbed the fine. But there was one big plus for the company—the tapes and other incriminating evidence did not become public.

The OSC trumped the RT Capital case as a sign of a new get-tough policy toward companies that play fast and loose with investors. Commission spokesman Frank Switzer says the 80-member enforcement department has doubled in size over the past two years, and the budget has grown from \$2.2 million to \$4.6 million in the same period. These changes followed the appointment of David Brown, who left a major law firm, Toronto-based Denton, Whin & Beck, to become chairman in April, 1988 and was determined to strengthen the OSC. “It’s all part of a plan to become a more vigilante watchdog,” says Switzer.

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## Back on the job

Architect Arthur Erickson has designed an elegant flophouse for Vancouver's homeless—and is refurbishing his star-crossed career

By Jennifer Hunter

**Arthur Erickson**, the grand old man of Canadian architecture, is conducting a tour of his latest project, a 10-story hotel in downtown Vancouver. The building bears many of Erickson's signature: a waterfall in the courtyard, soot-filled windows and translucent concrete and glass, a garden facing south. Erickson is pleased with his work. “This is his baby,” says builder Mike Prassa, who supervised the construction and is accompanying the architect on the tour. Erickson, at 76 still a man of派nction and handshakes, beaming, opens a heavy door that leads into the hotel ballroom. “We had to design the building almost to the standard of a prison,” he says. “The hardware has to be meager.” With reason. That is an ordinary hotel; it is a flophouse, a refuge for some of the most unfortunate characters in Vancouver's drug-addled downtown Eastside.

It is starting to consider that the man who befriended Pierre Trudeau and Shirley MacLean, who drew with sympathy and designed some of the most celebrated public buildings in North America—Strathcona Hospital, the Vancouver Courthouse, the Canadian Embassy in Washington—would be crafting a home for people suffering from mental illness and disease such as tuberculosis, AIDS and hepatitis C. But Erickson, who in 1986 became the only



*Erickson at his new Portland Hotel. “I was very fortunate that someone came to the rescue”*

Canadian to win the coveted American Institute of Architects Gold Medal, does not think it strange. “When I was asked, ‘Would you consider doing a hotel for prostitutes and drug addicts?’ I said, ‘Yes’,” he explains. “I’m always curious about how other people lead their lives.”

In a sense, the \$7-million hotel, which will replace the seedy Portland Hotel just around the corner, has become a metaphor for Erickson’s own career. Like the Portland madame, Erickson has suffered the humiliation of being down at the heels, publicly embarrassed by bankruptcy and the loss of his own home. And like the elegant new Portland, which aims to be the lens of local media events, Erickson’s career is a slowly being resurrected. He is busy designing houses and public build-

ings. “I’ve always been lucky,” says the country architect who takes a contemplative approach to life. “I’m never concerned about personal tragedy because something positive always seems to happen.”

The Portland project landed in his lap four years ago. The hotel, a sprawling century-old building on Cassall Street, is run by the Portland Hotel Society, which relies on public funding and donations. It is one of the society’s three young directors, Lu Evans, who thought of Erickson and invited Mark Townsend, who managed up the stairs to call the office where Erickson shares space with Nick Miklosky Architects. “I said to her, ‘You have a controversial reputation and you’re the best at what you do—we are dealing with people who are seen as undesirable and we

Financial woes in the early 1990s cost the famed architect his business, homes and valued clients

think it would be wonderful if a great Canadian architect could do something for them," says Townsend. After seeing photographs of some of the Portland's modernist landmarks, Erickson agreed with him. "People always think Arthur is too busy, that he is working in Korea or China," says Miklitsch, who also worked on the building. "But the people at the Portland Hotel proved that wrong. They just planned up."

It was perhaps his own experience being "homelost" that drew Erickson to the philanthropic project. In the early 1990s, as he closed offices in Toronto and Los Angeles and reorganized his business in Vancouver, Erickson was also forced to give up his house in Bel-Air, Calif. The house in Vancouver—a converted garage with a remarkable natural garden in residential West Pointe Grey—went on the block, says Erickson, and he sold it for a mere \$11,000 in 1997. In 1992, it was assessed at roughly \$450,000. But he owed \$3.5-million against it, with National Trust, Paul Desmarais's Power Corp., and a group of benefactors, including Colon Weston and Conrad Black, holding the mortgage. (The lenders eventually wrote some of it off, leaving the property with \$850,000 in debt.) Avancine developed spring the property wanted to build the Erickson's water-lily ponds, clear out the decorative masonry, and use the double-deed lot to build two modern homes.

Architectural landscape architect Michael Ward, was outraged. "I was absolutely floored that Arthur's home was being sold as a development property,"

she says. Inspired by the efforts in Chicago to preserve Frank Lloyd Wright's domestic architecture, Ward enlisted help from Montreal architect rural designer Phyllis Lambert and formed a grassroots group to raise money to buy the Erickson home. "Our big difficulty was that the details of his messy business operations and bankruptcy were quite well known among

local buildings," Erickson says. "You would normally go back to the original architect." When Vancouver city council decided to build a splendid cultural library in the early 1990s, he was eliminated early in the selection process. Erickson—seen as a philistine spender—was out of favour with local politicians, says his former student, colleague and head of the library building committee, architect Bing Thom (Montreal architect Moshe Safdie got the nod, instead.) "Erickson is one of Canada's national treasures," says Thom, noting that his was just one of many votes. "Vancouver has been very unfair to him."

Despite the disappointments, Erickson has soldiered on, designing The Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Wash., a million-dollar home in Canada and the United States and creating a residential site for the city of Changping, China. He is also busy writing his memoirs, sending his emails to Tibet with Thubten, his nunmeg with Prince Charles and

Carroll's corporate elite," says Watts. But she and her group persevered. Today, the Arthur Erickson House & Garden Foundation is the caretaker of the property, which is still encumbered with a mortgage of about \$500,000. Erickson now rents his former home and graciously allows tour groups—for \$10 a head—to traipse through the garden. It is the least he can do, "I was very fortunate," he says, "that someone came in the scene."

Maintaining his practice as an architect has not been easy over the past decade. Simon Fraser University, the project that brought Erickson his first international attention, is building a residential village without employing him as principal architect. "I am very discouraged about not being involved in the rehabilitation of some of my semi-



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A golf course is at the heart of the adult lifestyle community just north of Towns called Ballantrae Golf & Country Club. Along Hwy 44 near Aurora, Ballantrae ([www.ballantraeadultlifestyle.com](http://www.ballantraeadultlifestyle.com)) This development opened in late 2011 and phase one is 75 per cent sold. The public golf course is scheduled to open on Sept. 1, 2012. It was designed by internationally renowned golf course architect, Doug Carrick, who has been involved in the creation of Augusta-Glen, King Valley, Mandanah and Opcay Valley courses. Ballantrae is designed to play from 5,290 to 6,880 yards with a forgiving layout for all the golfers out there.

The community is on a 480-acre parcel of land with a lush green landscape dotted with over 15 acres of ponds and 30 acres of woodlands. The homes are interspersed throughout the golf course with lots of walking/biking paths. Eventually, 800 homes will be built in the community with gated security entrances at various entrances. This will provide homeowners with peace of mind when they are vacationing or if they are staying in their other residence. You don't have to worry about shoveling the snow or cutting the lawn, as all maintenance chores are handled by staff year round. The maintenance fees are from a low \$307 per month and with the economics of scale of a large community, it can be even cheaper than doing the work yourself.

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A further adult community, Briar Hill in Alliston (45 minutes north of Barrie), just Hwy 89 on Hwy 480 ([www.briarhill.ca](http://www.briarhill.ca)) has taken the concept one step further. In addition to its award-winning 45-hole golf course as the centerpiece, residents are adjacent to the Norwaywood Inn, a world-class family resort with 268 rooms and a 4,000 sq. ft. indoor recreation and athletic facility. Over the course of the last 32-year history, it has garnered a deserved reputation as one of Ontario's finest resort destinations. It has been known for hosting corporate conferences, golf tournaments and family reunions. The Inn has also hosted Canada's soccer team with its top-notch training facility and soccer field.

The Bellis family, who are owners of the Inn and the developer of the surrounding real estate, have created a truly remarkable community. Lee Bellis, the founder of the company, was inspired by a visit to La Costa, California. He has recreated a community reminiscent of the California lifestyle which has attracted a lot of buyers to the 500 homes in the Green Bear community, launched in 1983. Currently, there are 300 more homes planned for Briar Hill. The community is laid out in a series of exclusive neighborhoods with the golf course, mature trees and the Norwaywood inn.

A new phase of homes will be available this August. These homes back onto mature lots with walk-out basements. They also feature open-concept designs with cathedral ceilings, kitchen pass-thrus and large picture windows. You can choose from designs that are one- or two-storey with a loft.





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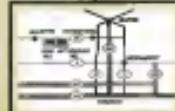
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## Deirdre McMurdy

# In shape for a hydro war

**Brian Osborne** has one of the most unusual challenges of any chief executive in Canada: his primary job is to create competition for the company he runs.

Osborne, 54, is president and CEO of Ontario Power Generation Inc., the venture that now holds the electricity-generating assets owned by Ontario Hydro before it was broken up in 1999. Osborne had joined Hydro in 1998, two years after the provincial government announced that it would dismantle the largest power utility in Canada and introduce open competition into a monopoly market. Since taking the helm at Hydro, he has been racing to overhaul the utility's bloated bureaucracy. Within a decade, he aims to divest Ontario Power Generation's share of the province's electricity-generating assets to 35 per cent from its present 90 per cent, to comply with the Test of Energy Competition Act.

To that end, Osborne recently utilized a controversial \$3-billion deal that will let British Energy PLC lease and operate the nuclear facilities at the Bruce generating plant on Lake Huron for 18 years, competing with OPG for their existing customers, as well as any new ones. In his view, the deal is a huge step in the right direction. "We've been regarded as a legacy company under Bill 35 and we might as well get on with it," he notes. "It's not much of a game plan to have the award of Daniosides of downtown hanging over your head for 10 years."

The transaction has come under intense public scrutiny. For one thing, critics have expressed concern that after the lease expires, Ontario taxpayers will be saddled with an obsolescent facility and a big bill for decommissioning the reactor and disposing of hazardous waste. There has also been a call for坐下来 that the money from the lease will be directed towards the reduction of the almost \$8-billion "stranded debt" left behind after Ontario Hydro's restructuring. Still others are worried about the environmental standards that will be enforced when Bruce—which is now only partially operational—is no longer under OPG's control.

In his rapid-fire manner, Osborne readily ticks off his answers to each of these issues. Ontario is on the hook for the cost of de-commissioning and disposing of waste regardless of who operates the plant. And a big block of the lease payments will be directed to those future costs. Both federal and provincial regulators will oversee the environmental standards at Bruce. Furthermore, Ontario's position on the Bruce Energy will try to attract several of the Bruce nuclear sites that were mothballed between 1995 and 1998. "We can't restore service at Pickering and Bruce simultaneously. That's beyond any management's scope of grasp," he declares.

Even Norm Rubin of Energy Probe, a vigilante watchdog on nuclear issues, sees some benefit to the British Energy deal. "There will be no more confusion surrounding this business. We all now know that we are dealing with a company that is out to win, to maximize users and maximize returns," he adds that "any clarity is welcome."

Certainly, there's something that Osborne is struggling to achieve at OPG. He would support privatization of the utility—eventually. Although he emphasizes that the Ontario government has taken no formal steps in that direction, he also notes that the government did take two rounds of investment banking in the spring to help it review options for OPG and Bruce. "If we do a good job, the government will have several options to consider," says Osborne. "If we do a bad job, it will have few options beyond the status quo or the breakup and sale of assets."

For Osborne, the status quo has never been a viable option. A British-born chartered accountant, he worked for several years as a partner at Clarkson Gordon, before taking the senior rank at Maclean Hunter. After losing anrimonious battle with Roger Cormier in 1994 over control of the publishing company now called Rogers Publishing, Osborne co-founded BCE Inc. As president of the conglomerate, and then president and CEO of Bell Canada, he became directly involved in a painful process that taught him many of the lessons he's now applying at OPG. "I'm not Mac Bell's monologue in Ontario, Quebec and the Northern Territories."

**Perhaps the most important lesson**, says Osborne, is the huge cultural adjustment required for successful deregulation and competition. "As a monopoly, there's a sense that you know what's best and the customer has to take what's offered. You show it to the customer, then all of a sudden you have to learn to listen and respond," says Osborne.

In addition to his self-confessed practice of "poaching from the Mounties" whenever an employee will stand still long enough, he is also tackling the cultural shift at OPG in a practical manner. "We've made it clear that we'll continue to put bread on the table for our workers," he explains. "But most of the pain for that bread has to come from savings and corporate performance." To reinforce this message, he has introduced a variety of profit-sharing plans which, he says, "have quickly gone a long way to building an union in the financial success of OPG."

Any such success will come under some serious strain by mid-2001, when full competition is anticipated to begin in the Ontario power market. Independent power generation, local distributors, aggregators, wholesalers and British Energy will all be vying for their piece of the \$5-billion-a-year provincial power market. By then, Osborne intends to have OPG even closer to its fighting weight—and his fighting spirit.

## CN abandons mega-merger

Two of North America's largest railways have called off their proposed \$38-billion merger after U.S. regulators imposed a 15-month moratorium on such alliances. In a joint statement, Canadian National Railway Co. CEO Paul Tellier and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. head Robert Krebs said it would not be in the interest of their shareholders to wait for more than two years while regulators deal with their proposal, first announced last December. By merging their operations—a total of about 80,000 km of track that crosses the continent—the companies had hoped to save about \$1.2 billion.

Regulators in the U.S. Surface Transportation Board said they wanted time to review the rules regulating railways.



CN train near Jasper, Alta.; speculation

Both CN and Burlington said that they will continue to work together to "strengthen the ties that have been established between the two companies," igniting speculation that neither has given up on the possibility of merging at a future date.

Meanwhile, CN and Canadian Pacific Railway, traditional rivals, reached an agreement to share one another's tracks on heavily travelled routes between Montreal and Chicago, and to the U.S. northeast. No jobs will be lost as a result of the deal.

## The high cost of depression at work

A study backed by some of the biggest names in Canadian business found that stress and depression in the workplace is costing the Canadian economy billions in lost productivity. Former finance minister Michael Wilson chaired the voluntary committee of the Business and Economic Roundtable on Mental Health, partly, he said, because he lost his own son, a successful professional, to suicide. Some of the leading factors causing employee depression: lack of control and appreciation, poor communication and unclear policies.

## Financial Outlook

**Canadian industry** is expected to push investment in equipment and plants to a record high this year, driven by soaring demand from the high-tech

sector. Investment in the telecommunications, broadcasting, computer and scientific sectors will likely jump by an astonishing 25 per cent to \$13.3 billion, according to Statistics Canada.

While the oil economy still dominates the investment picture with total expenditures of \$126.9 billion, that number is up only 3.3 per cent from 1999.

The booming oil and gas industries lead the manufacturing sectors with a jump of 25.9 per cent this year to \$19.1 billion. Total business and government capital expenditures are expected to be \$140.2 billion, up 5.1 per cent from last year.

### THE SURGING NEW ECONOMY

Annual percentage change in investment:



## Sky talks

The prospect of an Air Canada strike in peak flying season lessened when both the airline and its pilots' union agreed to resume contract talks with a federal mediator. Both sides are making quick progress, and if there is none the pilots say they could still walk off the job on Aug. 3. But federal Labour Minister Claudette Boothroyd has suggested the government is prepared to impose a legislative ultimatum if necessary. The stand forces will get MPs back to Ottawa in the event of an airline strike.

## Cash woes at Corel

Ottawa's Silicon Valley is in dire straits as cash-starved software maker Corel Corp. may be a takeover target. But Corel chief and founder Michael Copeland isadamant he won't give up control or sell Corel's popular WordPerfect or CorelDraw product lines. To keep his direction at bay, Copeland is spinning off other Corel technology, snapping it for stock in high-tech startups—he acquired a smattering last week—in the hope of making weighty profits once these affiliates go public.

## High-tech bumps

Ottawa-based JDS Uniphase Corp. saw its market value increase by \$27.5 billion—an 18-per-cent boost—after Standard & Poor's chose the growing fibre-optics maker to be included in its prestigious 500 equity index. But estimates are mixed. Gartner Inc. and InStat Corp. reported increased quarterly earnings, only to see their stocks sagged the next day as long-range profit warnings started up the technology sector.

## A gentle slowdown

The U.S. economy is continuing its gradual slowdown. Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan told the Senate Banking Committee, in what Wall Street took as a hint he may not raise interest rates again this year, softer consumer spending could ease inflation, Greenspan said. New figures show U.S. inflation declined slightly to 3.7 per cent in June. Inflation in Canada is running at 2.9 per cent.

## Tech Explorer



Jobs clinking off the G4 Cube: smaller, faster, cooler

**Steve Jobs**, co-founder Apple Computer, Inc. in 1998 with the wildly successful launch of the colorful, cute and Internet-friendly iMac desktop computer. Last week, at the Mac Expo in New York City, Apple's co-founder, chief executive and iMac designer, wunderkind, pulled off another first, unrolling the updated Power Mac G4 Cube. Jobs says the new computer is faster than Intel's top Pentium III, despite being crammed into an 8-inch cube resembling a toaster. Roughly one quarter the size of most PCs, the G4 Cube is capable of more than one billion calculations per second. Jobs, in typically evocative, Silicon Valley fashion, called it "the coolest computer ever."

Part of the design ingenuity comes from users feeding CD-ROMs into the Cube the same way they would slip coast into a toaster—vertically from the top. The Cube, available in Canada in September priced at \$2,699, features a 939 megahertz processor, 64 megabytes of RAM and a 20-gigabyte hard drive. It excels at 3D games, plays DVD movies, and is extremely quiet. In addition to the G4, Jobs introduced new colours for the iMac, including indigo, ruby and sage.

## After DVD

Some technophiles expect the digital video disc to run an end to the video cassette market, much as the compact disc did to vinyl records. New DVDs have competition from New York City-based Cineplex 3D Inc., which is developing a high-capacity fluorescent

multilayer disc, or FMD, that holds DVDs, CDs and video.

The new disc resembles a transparent CD and is made up of 10 plastic layers. A laser scans each layer, causing embedded dyes to become fluorescent, and thereby tangible to a sensor. While DVDs store up to 8.5 gigabytes of data, good for only 15 minutes of high-definition television, FMD holds 47 gigabytes, or more than an hour of HDTV. The company plans to produce an FMD player capable of playing DVDs and CDs, as well as a separate recorder, by the summer of 2004.

## Cool Sites

### DNA primer

**Now that most of the human genome has been mapped, parents and kids may want to learn more about DNA. Try <http://life.genome.utah.edu>, an easy-to-understand and entertaining site by the University of Utah's Genetic Science Learning Center. It includes a recipe to extract DNA from peas, chicken or any living organism using common household items such as alcohol and detergent.**

Donna Heinelcheck



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# A World of Difference

Canadian couples are finding original ways to celebrate their big day

By Susan McClelland

**T**hey sure don't make weddings like they used to. The nuptials for Cory Koffler and Anna Khan in Toronto included a traditional Indian wedding and a special Jewish blessing. On a Pacific beach in the Cook Islands, a bassoonist Lori and Steven Simonovic of Calgary were married by a lounge singer they only ever leave as "Daddy the Mormon president." Jenny Woo and Richard Chan of Winnipeg celebrated their special day with both a big white western wedding and a traditional Chinese tea-pouring ceremony. And Jennifer Craft, wearing cranberry-red sandals with her champagne-coloured gown, wed Ross Kassell in a make-shift outdoor chapel in a old hill in New Brunswick. "Whenever someone suggested we do something traditional," said Craft, echoing a sentiment that many of today's brides and grooms would recognize, "we would always answer that it just isn't us."

Ah, tradition. It's not so much that it has disappeared, but that it is evolving. This year, more than 172,000 Canadian couples will walk down the aisle, about 10 per cent more than last year; thanks, in part, to the magic of the year 2000 (future benefit no excuse for forgetting how long they've been married). Ceremonies held in July or August, complete with lavish country-club receptions and bridemaids in elaborate dresses, are still a big part of the \$6.5-billion-a-year wedding industry in Canada. But more than ever, couples are finding original ways to tie the knot. While some escape to exotic locales, others have ceremonies that reflect Canada's multicultural mosaic. As well, brides and grooms are older today than people were when first married in the past. That makes them more likely to make their own arrangements—and foot the bill themselves. "Couples are planning their weddings from the inside out rather than conforming to outside norms," says Beth Hebert, a Calgary therapist. "They're envisioning their values and what they want as a foundation for their life together."



mother is also a religious Jew. Khan's father, on the other hand, is Indian and his Welsh mother became a Muslim when she married him. After dating for three years, Koffler, 26, and Khan, 24, decided to get married. "Anoush's father is very traditional," the groom says. "The best thing was to get married and move on." They opted to forgo a religious ceremony and had a Justice of the Peace marry them in a civil service.

Still, the two planned a luncheon to honour the many cultures their families are descended from. Khan wore a

gold-embroidered sharara made of fabric sent from Pakistan.

*Cory, Koffler (left) at a wedding outdoors staged at a ski hill in New Brunswick*

Although the luncheon was held at Toronto's Boulevard Club, an outside restaurant catered the buffet of mostly Indian foods, including curries and tandoori. The Webb relatives gave the couple traditional gifts, including a love spoon and a horseshoe to hang over their door. And to honour Kallash's Jewish heritage, the couple did a blessing over the bread, called the shabbat. "Everything came out the way we wanted it to be," says Koffler, on a visit home last week from Seoul, where the two teach at an international school. "What was important to Anoush's family,



Folks, it seems, are not being scared off by statistics that suggest nearly a third of their marriages will fail soon. In fact, hope is triumphing over experience: the divorce rate has actually dropped since 1987, when it hit 50 per cent. Other couples believe they can avoid becoming a marriage casualty by taking a little sun and fun. In 1996, the latest year that statistics are available, 39 per cent of couples aged 20 to 29 lived in common-law unions. Still, the wedding has an appeal—and with the economy booming, why not take the plunge?

That is what Koffler and Khan did in May. They were both born in Toronto, but to radically different backgrounds. Koffler's stepfather is an Orthodox Jew and his

Chen (left) and Wie at the tea-pouring ceremony honoring western and Chinese traditions

we included. What we wanted was to keep it simple, and it was, too."

The Szenesowics kept theirs simple as well. "I had been to several weddings over the last year and none of my friends won enough," says Lori, 36, an account manager for a design firm. "A lot of preparation goes into those weddings and we really wanted ours to be just about us and our love for each other." In addition, neither set of parents would have been able to attend regardless of where it was held. Lori's are working in Kuwait and Szepanik live in Nagyvárad. So the Calgary couple, who had been dating for a year and a half, simply happened on a place for a 13-hour flight—the Cook Islands, east of Fiji. "I didn't know if you can actually call it a wedding, since it was the worse-kept secret in the world," says Lori. "I blabbed to a couple of friends and we did tell our parents."

A wedding planner recommended by the hotel where they stayed made many of the arrangements for them. As well as being Lori's best friend, she arranged for the tropical-shade-clad Danny to conduct the ceremony. Both bride and groom stood barefoot on the beach as they recited their vows. Then, when she and Szepanik, 29, a trader with a marathoning hobby, returned to their hotel room, he picked up his new bride, her instead of carrying her across the threshold, he grabbed her, turned around and jumped into the pool. In all according to Lori, the day could not have been better. "I wouldn't change a thing—truly, it was just perfect for us."

Such weddings would have been almost unheard of 40 years ago. Still, the trend—the bride in white to glorify her purity, the fancy church wedding, the pricey catered reception—is comparatively new, say wedding experts. According to Katherine Jellison, a history professor at Ohio University and author of the forthcoming book *It's My Day: The Commercialization of American Weddings, 1945-2000*, before the Second World War only the upper classes in North America had such elaborate affairs. Most lower- and middle-class couples married in sim-



Stephanie and Lori Szenesowic: keeping it simple



plied church settings or small civil ceremonies at the home. And the bride probably wore the same outfit she wore to church on Sundays—which wasn't necessarily white.

New York City-based *Bridal* magazine, says Jellison, started the whole white-wedding craze. When it was first published in 1934, the magazine was circulated only to money-bags on the East Coast. But after the war, with a burgeoning middle class that had lots of disposable income, *Bridal* began distributing across North America. "They were looking themselves if they just looked at the upper class as a market," says Jellison, "so they expanded and invited everyone into the world market for the rich." Hollywood, she adds, also played a role in the evolution of the wedding. The original 1950 movie *Father of the Bride* starring Spencer Tracy "set out the message that that was how you married in North America," she says. "Although the family is middle class, they spend all that attention as if they were wealthy."

There were, of course, always some who embraced alternatives. The late '60s and early '70s were rife with hippie couples tying their vows on mountaintops or under waterfalls. These days, it has become commonplace for brides and grooms to plan their own weddings. In a survey recently conducted by *WeddingBell*, a leading Canadian wedding magazine, more than 80 per cent of grooms said they played a major role in the organizing. Of the couples interviewed, 33 per cent also said they would be covering all the costs themselves—enabling daughters and sons to offload expensive parents to back off. In fact, only eight per cent of those surveyed indicated that a parent was solely responsible for the bills.

Part of what's driving this trend,

## Even when couples incorporate their families' traditions, they can bring something new to the mix

say the experts, is the increasing age of couples when they marry. According to Statistics Canada, the average age of first marriage in 1962 was 23.2 for men and 22.5 for women. By 1997, the most recent year for which statistics are available, this had risen to 29.5 years for men and 27.4 for women. At these ages, says Cary Stewart, editor-in-chief of *WeddingBell*, "couples know what they want in a wedding. It's not about do-it-yourself; it's a 22-year-old bride who's like, 'Do this.' The bride and groom's rising ages bode well for the marriage, too," says Anne Malar, author of Statistics Canada's recent report, *One Hundred Years of Families*. "Couples may be more mature when they get married," she says, "and think about the consequences of what they are getting into."

Jane Resivo certainly believes that's the case. The 37-year-old Toyko stylist, who will marry her second husband, Brian Hall, after 2½ years of dating, describes her first marriage, in 1987, "as this whole-goose-faisley-deal—I just assumed we would live happily ever after." Resivo recalls she was then only 24 and just ran back and left her parents pay for everything. "I was too young to know that my husband and I weren't suited for each other." By 1995, she was divorced and raising her son, Michael, alone. For a long time, the single mom had no amount of our re-

marrying. "If I did this again," Resivo says, "the focus would be on making the marriage work, not the wedding." When she and Hall marry aboard a Toronto cruise ship this week, Michael will be part of the ceremony. The eight-year-old will stand between the couple and Hall will give him a gold wedding band as well as one to Resivo.

"There are challenges with someone else's son," adds Hall, 38, "but I knew after a few months of dating that this is right."

Canada's multiculturalism is clearly reflected in today's weddings. Take Tara Skarloski and Kyle Green's union on July 15 in Stevenson, Ala. The couple wed in a traditional Catholic ceremony, but included aspects of their Ukrainian and Scottish backgrounds. While the bride was in a classic white gown, Green, 28, was a kilt, the Black Watch regimental uniform, and the couple exited the church to the sound of bagpipes. The reception for their 220-guests included bagpipes and cabbage rolls. And afterwards, the groom, bride and groom did the Polonaise, a Ukrainian dance.

Sharon Bacchus-Emilie, 33, a family counselor, and James Emilie, 38, an account representative for a shipping company, performed a similar balancing act at their July 15 wedding in Terrebonne, La. like Skarloski, Green's white gown while he, like Green, wore a kilt. Their

## 'A family affair'

Trends may come and go, but the big white wedding will endure. That, at least, is the view of many in the bridal business—and the fast-growing society wedding of the year is a classic example. When Carolyn Mahoney, the only daughter of former prime minister Brian Mulroney, married Andrew Lapchuk, son of *Espresso* magazine editor-in-chief Lewis Lapchuk, on Sept. 17, it was a grand affair. Friends and family of the couple are right-lipped about the nuptials, but Mulroney has learned some of the details. Carolyn, 36, who is studying law at New York University and Andrew, 38, who has launched an

Internet e-commerce business, will be married at St. Leo's, a grey stone church on a leafy street in Montreal's 1000 Westmount. The pews of the Roman Catholic church, which seats 700, should be mostly full with an estimated 500 guests. Father Gregory MacKinnon, a former president of Mulroney's alma mater, Sainte-Anne's University in Anagnos, N.S., will perform the ceremony. The reception will be held downtown in two elegant rooms at the Windsor Hotel, the former Windsor Hotel.

Who is planning the nuptials? "It's my



Carolyn Mahoney with brother Mark (far left); finally a tie-knotted

much a family affair," says Mulroney family friend Luc Lavoie. "So everybody is involved." While Lavoie would not comment on whether high-profile friends of Brian and Mills—Mulroney's, such as former U.S. president George Bush, former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher or talk-show host Kathy Lee Gifford, would attend, he did acknowledge, "you can expect some well-known people."

Donna Beauvois in Montreal

*Basis with Mahara at the Hindu Mandir, one of two religious ceremonies*

neophyte, too, reflected their backgrounds, especially the Scottish and West Indian music a DJ played late into the night before they left for their honeymoon—a 17-day tour of the Greek Islands and Turkey.

Even when couples incorporate their families' traditions, they can bring something new to the mix. When Jason Mahara and Monika Basu got married in Calgary, they opted for two ceremonies. On July 14, they wed in a Sikh temple, called a Gurudwara, to celebrate their cultural roots; the next day they married in a Hindu Mandir to honor his.

Basu, 25, and Mahara, 27, who met at the University of Calgary in 1995 and work in the information technology industry, created a Web site to explain the traditions of each faith to their 500 invited guests. On entering the Gurudwara, males and females separate and cover their heads. "The Web site showed guests what to expect, especially the European-dominated people who may never have been to a Sikh or Hindu ceremony before," says Mahara.

There is also a new approach in how couples prepare for their big day—and happily ever after. A so-called marriage movement has sprung up in Canada and the United States. Books, pre- and post-marriage counseling, weekend retreats and workshop sessions all offer couples advice on communicating and working through conflict. Rev. David Reed, a professor of theology at the University of

Toronto, said the movement arose to try to forefront the damage divorce inflicts. Couples marry primarily for status and, when that changes, they haven't been taught how to sustain the love, he says.

Also, life expectancy is the highest it has ever been—76 for men and 81 for women—and so "till death do you part" means a much longer time than it ever did before.

As a result, he says, churches and priests are



*Green, Shishamukhi, Isha and Radhika*

ceremonies are stepping in to help couples make it over the long haul. "People want these marriages to work," says Reed.

When Penny and Ned Kennedy, for example, became engaged last year, the Coquitlam, B.C., couple thought they were prepared for marriage since they had been living



together for five years. Still, several months before their May wedding, they decided to take a pre-marriage workshop that United Church leaders had recommended. "I didn't expect much," says Penny, 26, an early-childhood educator. "We'd been together for so long and I thought I knew what we were doing." In fact, the couple happily learned to much from the experience they chose to attend sessions for the entire four months leading up to their wedding. And they promised each other to designate one weekend a year for refresher courses. "We try to prevent problems now before they happen," says Penny. Adds Ned, 25, who designs hot-water heating systems. "That means working together in a team."

Jerry Wong and Richard Chan did not take a pre-marriage course—but they did make the day all about them and their beliefs. When they wed at All Saints Anglican Church in Whistler on July 8, Wong, 26, wore a white gown with a small mandarin and Chao, 30, a tuxedo. They wore a western wedding, they said, because they live in Canada. But in the afternoon, they changed into traditional Chinese wedding attire and held the on-pouring ceremony to bring fortune and good luck. Afterwards, they headed off to a 16-course Chinese dinner. "It was important to us that we honor both our heritages," says Chan. "The white wedding and the Chinese traditions."

What a beautiful thing the Canadian wedding has become, something old, something new, something borrowed and something—well, whatever colour the bride and groom want.

*With Rach Aherley at Hinsdale and Biswa Kar in Calgary*

# The Seven-Year Itch

**Couples first profiled in 1993 describe what it takes to stay together**

By Amy Cameron

**H**e was black, a socialist and the son of South African exiles. She was a sheltered twin, brought up in a 600-acre Greek house in Tasmania. Thus Kagan Pillay and Helen Papacostantinou met, fell in love and married in August all odds. That their marriage would survive a move from the relative safety of Canada to the come-down reality of Johannesburg was also improbable. Of all the couples profiled in a *Maclean's* June 28, 1993, cover story on weddings, this pair faces some of the biggest challenges that can rock a marriage, especially during the infamous "seven-year itch." However, Pillay and Papacostantinou are now living through the itchy period with hardly a problem. How do they manage? Compromise, laughter and never letting the dog sleep between them. "It's a surefire way to kill marriage," laughs Papacostantinou, 37. "Keep your love private and protect it at all costs."

In the original profiles, eight couples from across Canada explained why they chose to formalize their relationships that year. All talked about the future with a rosy newlywed glow. Seven years later, Maclean's checked in to see how they are handling the realities of widowhood. One couple proved too elusive to find. Two more, no longer together, did not consent for the happy news that at five of the original eight are still together.

The only profile, a karateka who wed after seven years of marriage—won't make future the 1993 *Marilyn Monroe* movie and has had many couples eyeing the calendar ever since. While the itch was supposedly more myth than fact, a U.S. study published in 1999 tracked 522 couples over 10 years and found that if they managed to survive a first urge to leave in Year 6, a second itch would occur in Year 7 as couples



*Im Papacostantinou, Pillay and their son Jantzi. "I have never been embarrassed"*

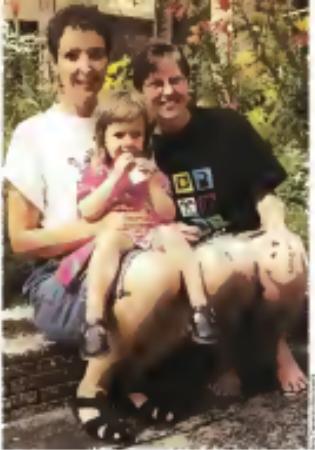
re-examined their relationships. "If we haven't had the space to be ourselves in the relationship, and we have gotten married into fulfilling social roles for each other, the gap begins to grow," explains Beth Hecla, a Calgary marriage counselor. Major life changes, communication problems and infidelity are among the causes for most marriage troubles during this period. But the most common reason for marital difficulties is children—whether to have them and how to raise them. Most of the married profiles in *Maclean's* had faced these issues, but have grown together as a result.

For Papacostantinou, moving far away from home was a way to break free from her established social roles and develop a healthier relationship with Pillay. In 1993, she and her twin sister, Lila, were married in a joint ceremony to two best friends. The two couples lived together in a shared Toronto house, eventually moving on to live in South Africa to start an information technology business. "Deciding to go to South Africa was an adventure, but it also represented the beginning of a life line of sorts for me," acknowledges Helen. "In order to become truly responsible and stand up on my own feet, I had to cut that invisible but very thick cord that connected me to my family and learn to connect it to Kagan."

The South African business was a success, but Lila and her

British-born husband, Jon Penning, decided to move to England after two years. It was a huge change for the seven-bar-a-weekney one for Liz and Jon's marriage. They wanted children and worried Johannesburg was not a good place to raise a family. Settling in York, Jon, 34, went to law school and Liz became prep mom. This August, the couple and their 16-month-old son, Jerry, move yet again to Bath where Jon has found work. "Now that we have Jerry, we have to be a little more visible in what we do and be a bit more long-term," says Jon, adding that they will likely visit the site of another child in a year or two. Liz believes that they have succeeded at this because they picked the right person in the first place. "The more I talk to people about sugar break-ups, it has to do with them being embarrassed by the person. I have never, ever been embarrassed of something Jon has done or said. He's always been dependable that way. That is half of the success right there."

**Communication** A key word in any marriage and something Diane and John Eby, who had each been married once before, were more than prepared for the second time around. The Victoria-based couple, who held their nuptials aboard a fishing trawler seven years ago, describe themselves



Koch, Nobbs holding daughter Holly, a whole new challenge

their 20-month-old daughter, Hayley, and is planning for another child due in August. "I'm working mostly in fields," explains Diane, 31. "I expect this to be soon for a couple more years as I am going to work as hard as I can and make a living while I can. That is my goal." Then, once Hayley is in school, Diane plans on working from home in Cooldale so that their family can be together.

Most of the couple agreed their children proved to be the most challenging issue in their marriage. Seven years ago, Paul Koch and Clare Nobbs didn't even think about children when they first learned their union is

Toronto's Metropolitan Community Church. The two women were more worried about whether Clare, a British citizen, would be able to get her landed immigrant status on compassionate grounds. Shifting a strong sense of social justice, the couple was also busy fighting for lesbian and gay rights and working in the not-for-profit sector. "One of the major hurdles in our relationship was deciding to have children," admits Koch, 39. "I didn't have that urge to have children and I knew that Clare has always wanted them. It wouldn't be fair to deny her that." After a lot of discussion and finding the right doctor, Nobbs gave birth to their daughter, Holly Koch-Nobbs, in March, 1993. "Having a child is a whole new challenge because you have to get to know one another again as parents," says Nobbs, 35, who gained an oxygen mask and new words as a stay-at-home in a non-traditional education collective in Toronto. "I tend to be more lenient and Pam is strict."

Despite the burdens of moving, money, family and the idiosyncrasies of each partner, these five couples are progressing through the sticky year with a firm commitment to their marriage. The two couples who are no longer together unfortunately fall within the national divorce statistic. In 1997, the most recent year for which figures are available from Statistics Canada, losing their spouse surpassed the norm of marriage for 35 per cent of Canadian couples, down from the staggering 51 per cent in 1987.

So what happened to these who split up? There is a pause on the phone as the woman at the other end ponders the seemingly innocuous question. "Is Fred or Joyce there, please?" Her voice, when the finally answers, is right, "Joyce?" No, Joyce is no longer ... I'm the new wife," Clark. The line goes dead.

Clearly someone's itch was scratched. ■

## One pair's recipe for wedded bliss is 'laughing at ourselves'

today as "those disarmingly happily married people." Diane, 48, jokingly disarms herself as a 1970s wife who stays at home painting while John, 50, works in his family medical practice. They have faced challenges outside of their union—family illness and the death of both of their fathers—but they have a simple recipe to make marriage work. "Honesty," says John. "Frank, honest, nerve-exposing openness. Unconditional support and an ability to laugh at ourselves. We're both very capable of laughing at ourselves."

Many can run many marriages apart, but for these of the *Married* couples, sharing the financial burden proved invaluable. Cheri Kape, 25, waded while her husband was in university. Now, with Dan away for extended periods of time because of his environmental consulting business, Cheri manages their home in Cooldale. Also, keeps watch over

## Music



Drance at home. "You don't create small feather objects."

hiring Yo-Yo Ma and Pasarotti and every type of person who it would require \$70,000 or \$80,000 to bring here," Drance says. American soprano Barbara Bonney is the highest-profile performer coming. Instead of stars, festival director George Liverock aped for scope. Along with choral music—Liverock, 56, a former CBC Radio producer, organized Vancouver's successful 1993 World Symposium on Choral Music—it was a Borodino series, late-night classical jazz, Belgian gypsy jazz, chamber music, choral music and a day-long concert featuring the works of Canadian composer R. Murray Schafer. Operas include MacKenzie's rarely performed *Oedipus*, complete with an exotic 17th-century instruments—among them viola da gamba, citole and a regal—and the world premiere of the music-in-Canada *Game Master* by Leslie Uyeda and Tora Core. One of five new works commissioned by the festival, the opera is set in the seventh game of a hockey playoff series.

Considering the relatively huge \$1-million box-office rate, the festival needs to break even, the vital question is whether Vancouverites, who seem largely unaware that an Edinburgh Festival West may be building on these downtown, will embrace it. Two past attempts at big-budget summer arts showcases, the Vancouver International Festival in the 1980s and a Shakespeare festival in the 1990s, were economic failures that lasted only a few seasons each.

Since then Vancouver has grown larger and—festival organizers hope—more sophisticated. Certainly Liverock and Drance are excited by the breadth of the line-up. Asked to name the performances he's looking forward to the most, Liverock points to "that's a difficult one," he says finally, "because I'm planning to go to all of the concerts."

John Masters in Vancouver

## Vancouver gamble

Stephen Drance wants his city on the cultural map

On the walls of his home on Vancouver's Point Grey headland, Dr. Stephen Drance has a collection of unique stage—only efforts by camerographers to give form to the blank images that read "Here be monsters". This week, Drance, 75, does a little pioneer mapping of his own as he grades a major new music festival into waters logically unchanged but already known to be dangerous. The first Festival Vancouver opens July 28 for a 17-day run with more than 90 concerts at nine venues around Vancouver. In \$3.2-million budget initially makes it among the largest summer arts celebrations in Canada, and it surpasses any of Vancouver's older events, and including the city's well-established folk-music (\$1 million), jazz (\$2 million) and film (\$2 million) festivals.

Drance, a retired ophthalmologist and philanthropist who previously raised \$8.1 million for a new eye-care unit at Vancouver General Hospital, had long wanted to see a serious arts celebration in his home town. In 1947, he was at the very first Edinburgh Festival—now one of the world's most prestigious international arts celebrations—and still travels widely to attend classical and early-music events. "Every time I sit at a festival in Europe," he says, "I think of Vancouver and my beauty and I say, 'We could really make a strong show.'"

So in 1997 Drance met with Vancouver's Music Alliance and was approached for his plan. A key component was to think big: "If it's going to have a festival, it really needs to be future," says Drance. "You don't create small, shape things." That meant he faced the daunting task of raising \$2.2 million to fund a completely unknown quantity (the other \$1 million is projected to come from ticket sales). Reluctantly, Drance accepted, extracting \$700,000 from the three levels of government and \$1.5 million from private and corporate donors. And that did despite the first losses he incurred—arts events are a hard sell. "I would prefer to have three health programs \$8 million each than one at \$3.2 million for the arts," he says.

Even with its extensive budget, Festival Vancouver decided to stretch its dollars. "We have not gone exclusively for

contests in music

by this

## The Ghost and Mrs. Spencer



*Spiffer (left); Ford, truly creepy viewing*

In the 1980s, Hollywood's cautionary tale for middle-aged men with wandering eyes was *Fatal Attraction*—and its no-nonsense boiled bacon. In the new millennium, however, the consequences are even higher. The movie *What Lies Beneath*, starring Harrison Ford and Michelle Pfeiffer as the unfaithful husband and his by-the-wives side, adds a horrific element to an thriller frame. This time the threat to the besieged couple: a tormented woman who turned into a waterlogged ghost.

Ford plays Norman Spencer, a hellfire genetics professor with a beautiful but vulnerable wife, Claire (Pfeiffer), and a seemingly perfect life. But soon after their only child leaves home for college, Claire starts to see and hear a

Susan Oh

unseen,isterlike ghost, better  
we are buying in, seemingly  
undeterred by the fail-  
ure of previous rock-solid  
creations. Those would  
latch the wacky predi-  
cition of Gennifer  
Cordy veiled off the shud  
on July 12 episode.

The new thriller ap-  
peared at the same time as  
published TV Books re-  
leased edited excerpts of  
*Survivor*, the show's official  
companion guide. Set to



*Parasite: betting large*

supernatural presence in the seemingly-sold family home. The beginning of the movie makes much of Claire's emptiness syndrome, and a look or a nod can summon a broad, bare of emotional fragility. So Norman is quick to dismiss his wife's experience as signs of mental illness, and assigns her the care of a psychiatrist. But after a few hours that naturally drag, the film slowly—very slowly—reveals the truth of Claire's terrifying vision of Norman and the ghost girl on (played by supernodal Amber Valletta) who subsequently disappear while the two are having an affair the previous year.

Despite being miffed with clichés beyond even the studio norm, *What Lies Beneath* provides truly creepy viewing, far more frightening than conventional blood-and-gore horror films. The hysterical Pfeiffer and Ford's bullying plodders—his first non-hands-on in a quarter-century of leading roles—aren't both often ridiculous but subtle visual effects and slick cameras make the all-Ed Helms' cast's sophisticated thrillers easily make up for the mushy area.

Susan Oh

## Pop Movies

1. <i>Iron Man</i> (2008)	\$7,654,000
2. <i>Sixty Minutes</i> (2008)	65,177,487
3. <i>Mr. Perfect</i> (2008)	12,205,010
4. <i>Mr. Porter</i> (2008)	11,291,720
5. <i>Monsters vs. Aliens</i> (2009)	11,111,000
6. <i>Gladiator</i> (2000)	8,111,386
7. <i>Mr. Mycroft &amp; Mrs. (2008)</i>	4,179,509
8. <i>Monsters vs. Aliens</i> (2009)	4,059,802
9. <i>Iron Man</i> (2008)	3,981,719
10. <i>La La Land</i> (2010)	3,294,238

Top movies in Canada, ranked according to box office receipts during the seven days that ended July 20. (In brackets, numbers of weeks end-of-week.)

Source: Entertainment Weekly

## Reality TV.com

The rest of Canada may be far from sharing Toronto's belief that it is the centre of the universe, but two young entrepreneurs are biting other Canadians will want a voracious taste of life in Hogtown. The Web site [www.blacklabelTV.com](http://www.blacklabelTV.com)—tagged as "TV that swallows"—features video clips from parties and sporting events, and from such slice-of-life scenes as a visit to the tattoo artist. The company, which aims to turn a profit from advertising, was launched on July 10 by software developer Jay Uteg, 26, and Joe Marks, 23, and employs 28 people who hope to spin their lives into a living TV that swallows whole.

## A royal tour

The queen of children's literature is coming to Canada in a style reminiscent of a rock 'n' roll tour. After a year of touring by her fans, J. K. Rowling, who penned the four phenomenally selling Harry Potter novels, will visit Vancouver and Toronto. Vancouver International Writers Festival organizers have booked the 3,000-seat Queen Elizabeth Theatre for a reading on Oct. 25, with tickets going for up to \$15. The day before, however, Toronto's International Festival of the Arts will pull out all the stops: Rowling will read in the city's cavernous Sony Dome, an annual festival artistic director Greg Gammie at a raucous media conference attended by 50 children dressed as characters in her books. Up to 60,000 fans will be able to squeeze into the stadium, home to the city's Blue Jays baseball team, at prices ranging from \$5 to \$15. "Rowling has no idea how big she is in North America," Gammie says. "But we hope to show her."



Photo: AP/Wide World

## Stagestruck

Seven years after her 133-day stint as Canada's first female prime minister ended, Kim Campbell is returning to the spotlight. Currently Canadian consul-general in Los Angeles, where she lives with Montreal-based musician Hershey Felder, Campbell will appear onstage with Felder in Toronto on July 30 during the annual Brott Summer Music



Campbell, Felder co-stars



Felder

Festival. Felder, the 31-year-old star of the one-man Broadway show *George Gershwin Alive*—will join Brott's National Academy Orchestra in performing the composer's works, while Campbell, 53, will relate anecdotes about Gershwin's life. The orchestra will also play selections from *Rock of Ages*, a musical with lyrics co-written by Campbell and Felder. The start of a lasting career?

## Ballerina triumphant

Dancer Kimberly Glazier's 19-month battle with the National Ballet of Canada ended last week with a final parting of the ways. Both ballerina and company claimed vindication, but it was the National that paid Glazier an undisclosed sum (sources placed it in the high six figures). In December, 1998, National artistic director James Kudelka told the principal dancer that her scheduled

debut and her contract would not be renewed. Glazier, maintaining she had been fired for questioning Kudelka spending plans, sued. In June an arbitrator ordered the National to cast Glazier in fall-season roles. That put the company under severe pressure, considering that Kudelka had told the arbitrator "I'd rather kill myself" than do. Arctic temperatures, like artistic talent, doesn't come cheap.



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## Best-Sellers

<b>Fiction</b>	200,000
1. <i>THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO</i> (2009)	1
2. <i>UNHAPPY</i> (2008)	4
3. <i>THE PIRATE: INVENTOR, OUTLAW</i> (2009)	2
4. <i>THE WIND UP GIRL</i> (2009)	2
5. <i>THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO</i> (2009)	2
6. <i>NO MAN'S LAND</i> (2009)	2
7. <i>THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO</i> (2009)	2
8. <i>WHAT WE NEVER TALK ABOUT</i> (2009)	2
9. <i>THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO</i> (2009)	2
10. <i>THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO</i> (2009)	2

## Nonfiction

1. <i>THE UNHAPPY GIRL: INVENTOR, OUTLAW</i> (2009)	1
2. <i>SOUL SPORTS</i> (2009)	1
3. <i>THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO</i> (2009)	1
4. <i>REHABILITATION: REHAB, ROLLIN' HIGH</i> (2009)	1
5. <i>THE PIRATE: INVENTOR, OUTLAW</i> (2009)	1
6. <i>KNIGHTS &amp; KNIGHTS: JULY 4TH</i> (2009)	1
7. <i>THE PIRATE: INVENTOR, OUTLAW</i> (2009)	1
8. <i>WHAT WE NEVER TALK ABOUT</i> (2009)	1
9. <i>THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO</i> (2009)	1
10. <i>WHAT WE NEVER TALK ABOUT</i> (2009)	1

## A death foretold

Two years after publishing *The Day Diana Died*, Christopher Andersen is back with a similar biography about the Princess of Wales' American counterpart. *The Day John Diefenbaker Died* (HarperCollins) profiles the life of John Keaynor Jr. and details the events leading up to the July 16, 1999 airplane crash that killed him, his wife Carolyn Keaynor, and her son, Lauren. The author claims to have the inside story on Keaynor's political ambitions, and his pre-marital romances with Madonna, Daryl Hannah and others. What sticks out most, however, is Keaynor's risk-taking nature. He had had several career blunders before his death at 38, including an ill-advised paragliding flight in high winds in May 1999, from which he escaped with only a broken ankle.



Andersen

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## Health

# The Cost of Complacency

After a steady decline, HIV infection rates among gay men are once again on the rise

By Cheryl Hawkes

**A member** of the so-called safe-sex generation, Richard is a gay man in his 30s who became sexually active during the early part of the AIDS epidemic. From the start, he says, he always used an condom, always approached sex "with honor and a level of caution that seemed ill-fitted with the excitement of the event." But occasionally Richard (not his real name) took a chance and had unprotected sex. And with every blood test that came back HIV-negative, he felt bolder. "Every year, the number of spades would be more than the year before," he admits.

"I guess I was rolling the dice." Three months ago, Richard's luck ran out: his blood tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

He's not alone. Researchers across North America report that after years of decline, infection rates of HIV among gay men once again are climbing. What's more, the bulk of the new infections are among gay men 35 to 45 years old, men who have seen the worst of the AIDS epidemic and who should know how to avoid infection. "Certainly I've lost a lot of friends over the past 15 to 20 years," says Richard. "I have a lot of friends who are HIV-positive. It would all if I was unaware by any stretch."

A study released earlier this month by University of Toronto researchers reported HIV infection rates among gay and bisexual men in Ontario have increased nearly 25% since 1996, largely among men living in Toronto and Ottawa. The study looked at a provincial database of about 270,000 people of both sexes who had reported HIV blood tests between 1992 and 1999. It then examined changes in rates for each risk group. Among gay and bisexual men, the infection rate went from less than one per cent of those tested (0.87 men per 100 tested) to 2.07 per cent by the end of 1999.

The U of T findings mirror similar reports from members in San Francisco, generally considered ground zero for trends in the AIDS epidemic. There, HIV infection rates among gay and bisexual men, seeking anonymous mating

*Celebrating at Toronto's Gay Pride parade.*  
*Condoms are in clipping*

have nearly tripled since 1997, after several years of decline. Another San Francisco study by a group called STOP AIDS reported that the proportion of men who and they "always" use a condom fell to 60.8 per cent in 1997 from 68.9 percent in 1994. Sixty-eight per cent of those who engaged in unprotected sex with a range of partners and they did not know the HIV status of all their partners.

The reasons for the increases are complex. They range from the misconception among young gay men that AIDS is an old person's disease to the impact of the so-called drug cocktails built around protease inhibitors. AIDS deaths in Canada fell by 32 per cent in 1996, the year the drugs were introduced, and by 70 per cent in 1997. There is also a sense of fatigue towards safer sex practices among older men. "It's really difficult for anybody to maintain perfect behavior 100 per cent of the time," says Richard.

University of Toronto sociologist Dea Belschak has seen evidence of an increase in "barebacking"—anal sex without a condom—over the past year or two. "It's everywhere," he says, citing Internet chat rooms and "coverage in the gay media that almost normalizes the behavior." Belschak, who teaches courses on the sociology of AIDS says regular HIV testing can work against safe sex, reinforcing risky behaviors. "You take some risks, you get tested and you're negative," he says. "So the next time you take more risks, it gives people a false sense of security."

Ronald Johnson, associate executive-director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City, says currently very few men are also using lubricants when they are also using condoms. Johnson, who is 52 and HIV-positive, last year, his agency surveyed some 5,000 gay men about their safe-sex practices. "We found higher rates of condom use than we were expecting, but we also saw many men around



*Ad in gay magazine: putting the last face on anti-viral treatments*

dropped to 30 per cent of HIV-positive people, he says. "Of the ones, half will become infected within three years. There is also an increase in infections with drug-resistant strains of HIV."

Charles Roy, executive-director of the AIDS Committee of Toronto, notes that anti-viral therapy for many can be a gratifying existence. In the past year, he says, one friend suffered a massive stroke and another had triple-bypass surgery due to the status of the drugs.

Deaths rates are soaring among HIV-positive people, he says, and chronic disabilities and cancers are common. There are also the subtle signs of hypodexy—a deterioration of fat in the body. "It's no picnic. Yet what gets communicated to the average Joe is the death rate is down and the drugs keep you alive."

For Roy, the recent rise in HIV infection rates stems from deeper psychological issues. Older gay men, he says, "have experienced so much loss or life. It's like I just want to be close to someone, to lose someone and be loved back. These are powerful feelings that can overwhelm and lead to irrational behavior." Protection messages, says Roy, need to be "more hard-hitting, more in-your-face" and convey to HIV-negative men what it really like to live with the virus.

Meanwhile, Richard plans to practice safe sex in the future, but not so safe as to inform every partner that he's HIV-positive. "Any one in the year 2000 who is testing their behaviour on the assumption that the other person has the responsibility," he says, "is engaging in just as much risk as I did."



*Subtle signs of an increasing increase in the risky practice of 'barebacking'*

researchers still have not developed a vaccine for AIDS, and there is still no cure for the disease. Better tools to pharmaceuticals in AIDS in U.S. magazines aimed at the gay and HIV-positive communities—magazines like *The Advocate* and *PC2*—that put the best fact on anti-viral drugs. Yet anti-viral



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## The five best beach books

And now, the central business of summer reading. There's a good saying, Wilson Churchill noted, that "when a new book appears, you should read an old one." Of course, he added, "as an author I would not recommend too strict an adherence to this saying." That's career aside, Churchill had a point: there are times—such as lolling by the ocean or at the cottage—when an old book is preferable to a new one. Surprised? Here's a writer on vacation, and reviews of new books don't always stand up to reviews, as is the case in other areas of journalism, tend to bias us too much to each other, and make their judgments in packs.

Surprise at the cottage isn't the time to learn *The Iliad* in the original Greek, or how to plot the axes, or begin studies of tenth-century literature. On the other hand, don't turn your brain off completely, choosing only books that feature bikini, buccolae, swallows or all three. A good rule if you're going away is to find books out in your destination, or places where you've been, so you can judge their authenticity and perhaps write yourself into the plot. It's nice if a book entertains you, but more important on vacation is that it entertains. All of the following suggestions merit both criteria. Some are hard to find, but all are well worth the effort.

• The country-side of *Hann* is a beautifully unengaging, the people are genial but occasionally contemptuous of remarkable oneself, the poverty is appalling, and over the years, Hann has been governed by some of the worst depots in the Western world. Graham Greene limited those qualities perfectly in his 1966 novel, *The Comptroller*. His book was set during the regime of François Duvalier, two decades later, first had changed under his son "Baby Doc." He was overthrown in 1986, but many of the same problems linger. The Grand Hotel Clifton, where Greene wrote the book and visiting journalists hang out, is unchanged. So is the gossip, white-suited top Achilles Jolicoeur, who appeared in the book as "Petit-Pet." Greene could scarce believe what he was writing. "Poor Hann" and the character of Doctor Duvalier's rule are not inverted, the later not even blakened for dramatic effect." Hann, in Greene's understated tone, is quietly horrifying, but hypnotically fascinating.

• It's sad to think these may be people whose sole exposure to Mordecai Richler's writing is the clip 'n' paint columns he wrote off in about three months for the *Montreal Star* those, and move straight to his masterpiece, *Soliloquy* (1987). The fictional memoir, as written by an aging, confused, occasionally well-meaning 30-something, is alternately hilious, heartbreaking, a great yarn, and his most ambitious and

compulsive book. In real life, every piece written about Richler mentions his curmudgeonly ways. But anyone who knows him even slightly soon sees him exposed as an exceptionally devout, kindred, father and grandfather. Richler's odd mix of cynicism and sentimentality spills over into *Soliloquy*, contrasting each other perfectly—alongside his moderate observations of life as a Montreal Anglo.

• Before Mel Gibson started to playing cartoon-character vigilantes in jingoistic shoot-'em-ups, he made some good movies. *The Year of Living Dangerously* (1982) was one—but the 1978 book it was based on, by Australian author C. J. (Christopher) Koch—is even better. It chronicles the fall of Indonesian President Suharto in the early 1980s, with the focus on the Western diplomats and journalists living there. The story is narrated by an unidentified Canadian journalist (all hands who ever worked abroad can readily recognize elements of themselves) in Koch's depiction of responses hanging around more with one another than with locals, and reflecting the more blunter but balanced in their stories. The portrayal is pitch-perfect; it's also a love story with lots of action.

• If you suffered through the movie misfire-bashing of *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, you're likely to make a mistake and miss the terrific Patricia Highsmith books, starting with this one (1955), about finance Ripley, the most amoral anti-hero of modern times. Highsmith's writing is lean, smooth and smart, just like the title character. Whether set in the mean streets of Manhattan or the sunny open spaces of small-town Italy, she uses a catastrophic and creepy Ripley to pull people for the same reasons he orders lunch or buys a new outfit: it suits him, and he's surrounded by much anger. What's scarier are those times when you find yourself rooting for him to get away with it.

• The most remarkable quality of Stephen Leacock's best work is how well it stands up almost nine decades later. *Sunnybank Sketches of a Little Town*, published in 1912, was set in the fictional town of Mariposa (based on real-life Orillia, Ont.), but its stereotypical characters live on in small towns across Canada. One reason it stands so well is that, behind the gently mocking tone, Leacock's obvious affection for everyone and everything passes it evident. Consider his description of an early morning, blinding: "The long call of the loon resounds. The air is cool and fresh. This is in real the new life of the land of the silent pine and the snowing water. Like Wanamaker in the morning sunlight. Don't talk to me of the Indian lakes, or the Rockies or the Swiss Alps. Take them away. Move them somewhere else. I don't want them."

On a midsummer's day in any one of countless similar places across Canada, it's hard not to agree. See you at the lake—or a particularly disorienting beachcom.

Allen Fotheringham still writes.

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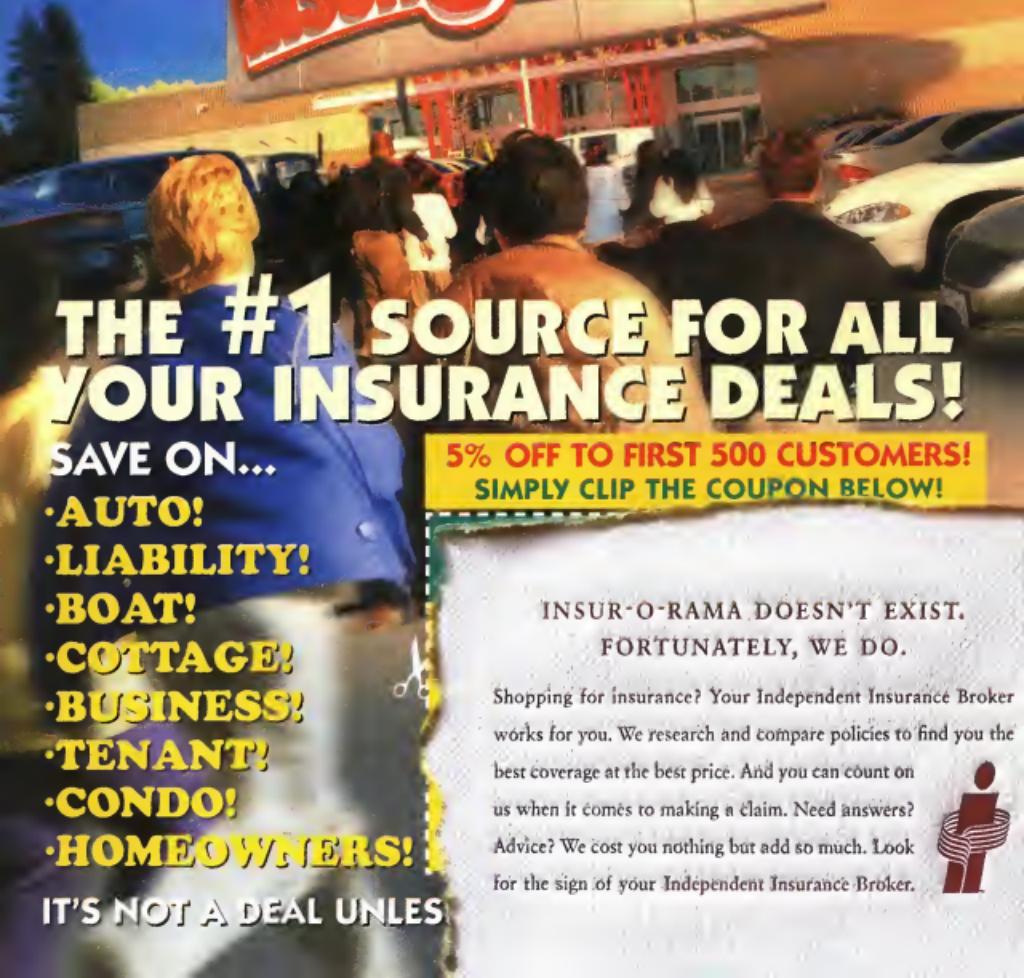
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